赤木

福本伸行

AKAGI ● Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Kindai Mahjong Comics

第3巻

近代麻雀コミックス ● 竹書房

Kindai mahjong Comics

アカギ

闇に降り立った天才

狂躁の闘牌

3

福本伸行

TAKE SHOBO

アカギ

闇に降り立った天才

近代麻雀コミックス ● 竹書房

福本伸行

アカギ

第3巻

雑誌 57592-81

定価560円(本体544円)

赤木しげる

竜　崎

ヤクザ幹部。南郷との勝負て勝利寸前だったが、赤木により劣勢に。

南　郷

多額の借金返済のため、己の命を賭けてヤクザと麻雀勝負をする男。

登場人物紹介

前巻までのあらすじ

昭和33年。生命を賭けたヤクザとの麻雀勝負に敗れつつあった南郷の前に現われた一人の少年。彼こそ後に裏の麻雀界に君臨することになる赤木しげるであった。恐るべき才能を見せた赤木にヤクザの代打ち・矢木が挑む。が、赤木の異端の戦略の前に敗れ去ってしまう。どちらかが潰れるまで戦おうとする赤木に、一気に決着をつけるべく、裏麻雀界の実力者、盲目の雀士・市川がぶつけられた…。

市　川

ヤクザの代打ち。盲目ながら、その技のキレは常人を遥かに凌ぐ。

安　岡

刑事。犯人として追っていた赤木に麻雀の才能を認め、興味を持つ。

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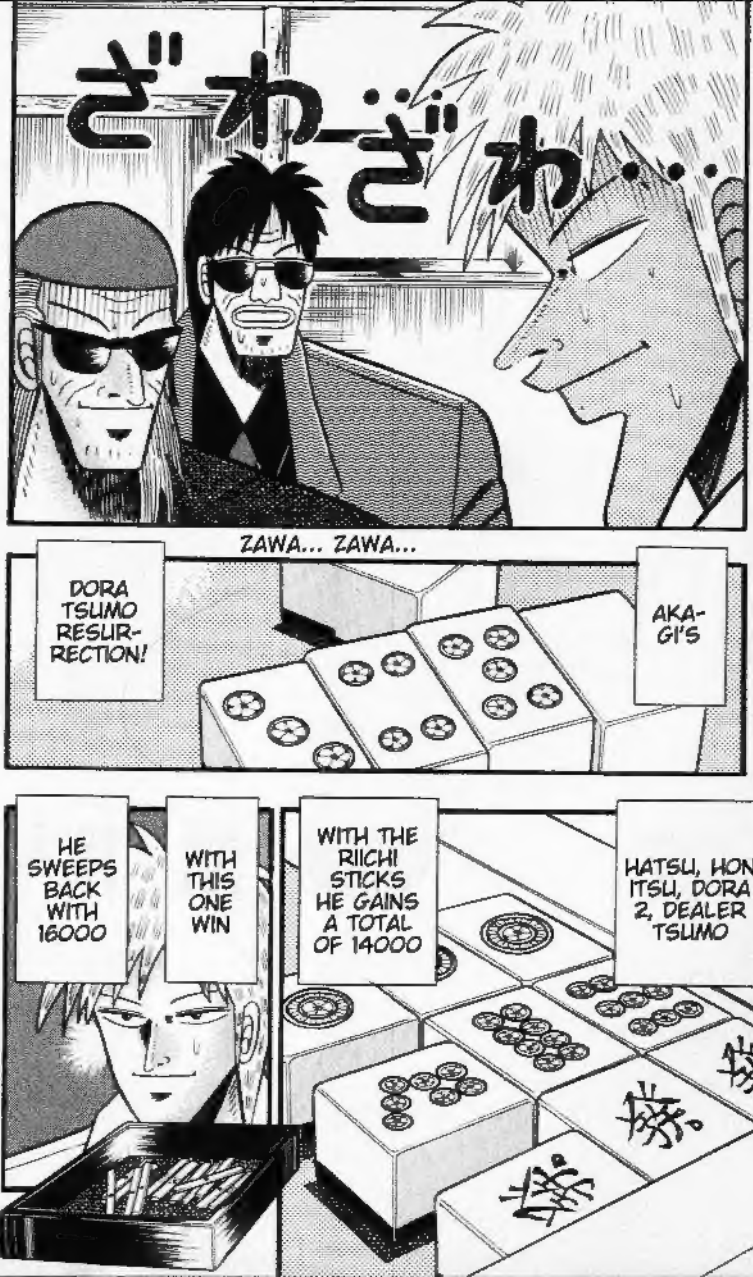
CHAPTER 19: PSYCHOLOGY

第19話心理

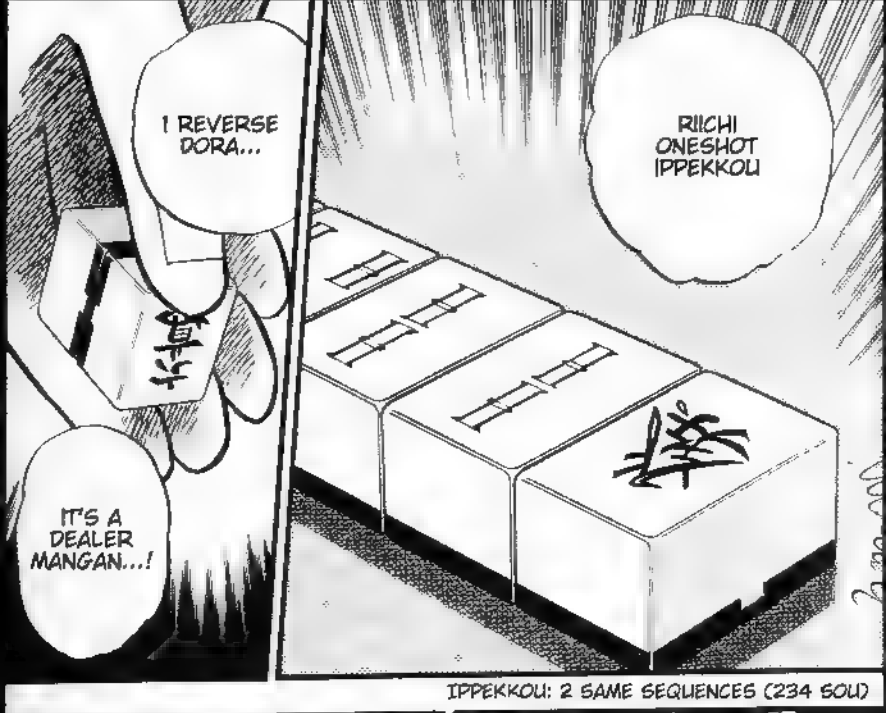

ざわ…ざわ…
ZAWA... ZAWA...
DORA TSUMO RESUR-RECTION!
AKA-GI'S
HE SWEEPS BACK WITH 16000
WITH THIS ONE WIN
WITH THE RIICHI STICKS HE GAINS A TOTAL OF 14000
HATSU, HON ITSU, DORA 2, DEALER TSUMO

THE MATCH EXTE-NDS!
A MATCH UNTIL MINE OR ICHIKAWA'S POINTS BECOME ZERO?
YEAH
SO ALTHOUGH THIS IS THE LAST SOUTH FOURTH ROUND, THE MATCH WON'T END
I SEE
WE'RE NO LONGER AT THE BRINK BUT
IT'S A LITTLE USELESS ...
HMPH
IN SHO-RT...
UNLESS I MAKE DIRECT HITS ON ICHIKAWA
I WON'T HAVE A CHANCE OF VICTORY ...
WELL BUT
BEFORE THAT
RIGHT NOW THE POINTS ARE WITH THE OTHERS
IT SHOULD BE EASY TO TAKE IT FROM THEM...

I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING AGAIN TO MAKE IT SATISFACTORY
16000 POINTS IS DISHEARTENING...
SHIMOCHA
KAMICHA
CHIRA...
THEY'RE ONLY TO FILL IN THE NUMBERS FOR THIS BIG GAMBLING MATCH
IT'S EASY TO READ THEIR MINDS
THEY'RE CONFINED
FUFU... I BELIEVE THESE TWO WERE CALLED TO BE THE OTHER TWO PLAYERS

IT WON'T BECOME SOME SHITTY MAHJONG
WELL AT LEAST I'LL HAVE A FAIR MATCH WITH ICHI-KAWA
THEN THERE WILL BE MEAN-ING TO IT...
THAT IDEA IS BAD ...
THEY'LL DO THEIR BEST TO AVOID PAYING
THEY SHOULDN'T BE IN THIS MATCH IN THE FIRST PLACE
THOSE TWO WON'T FOOL AROUND
AKAGI'S TENPAI
I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT!
THAT MENTAL-ITY...
THEY'LL KEEP PLAYING SAFE TILES!
IF I DECLARE A RIICHI THE DANGEROUS TILES WILL NEVER COME

...
FUFU ...
RIICHI!
FOR THINKING THE REVERSE OF THE WINNING HAND
THEY LEAP INTO THEIR OWN GRAVES
ON A HELL WAIT, IS EFFE-CTIVE!
HINTING AT A TAN PIN, WHEN ACTUALLY...
FOR PLAYERS LIKE THEM
RON!
I SHOULD MAKE USE OF THIS
THESE PEOPLE ONLY WORK WITH WHAT THEY CAN UNDERSTAND



IPPEKKOU: 2 SAME SEQUENCES (234 SOU)

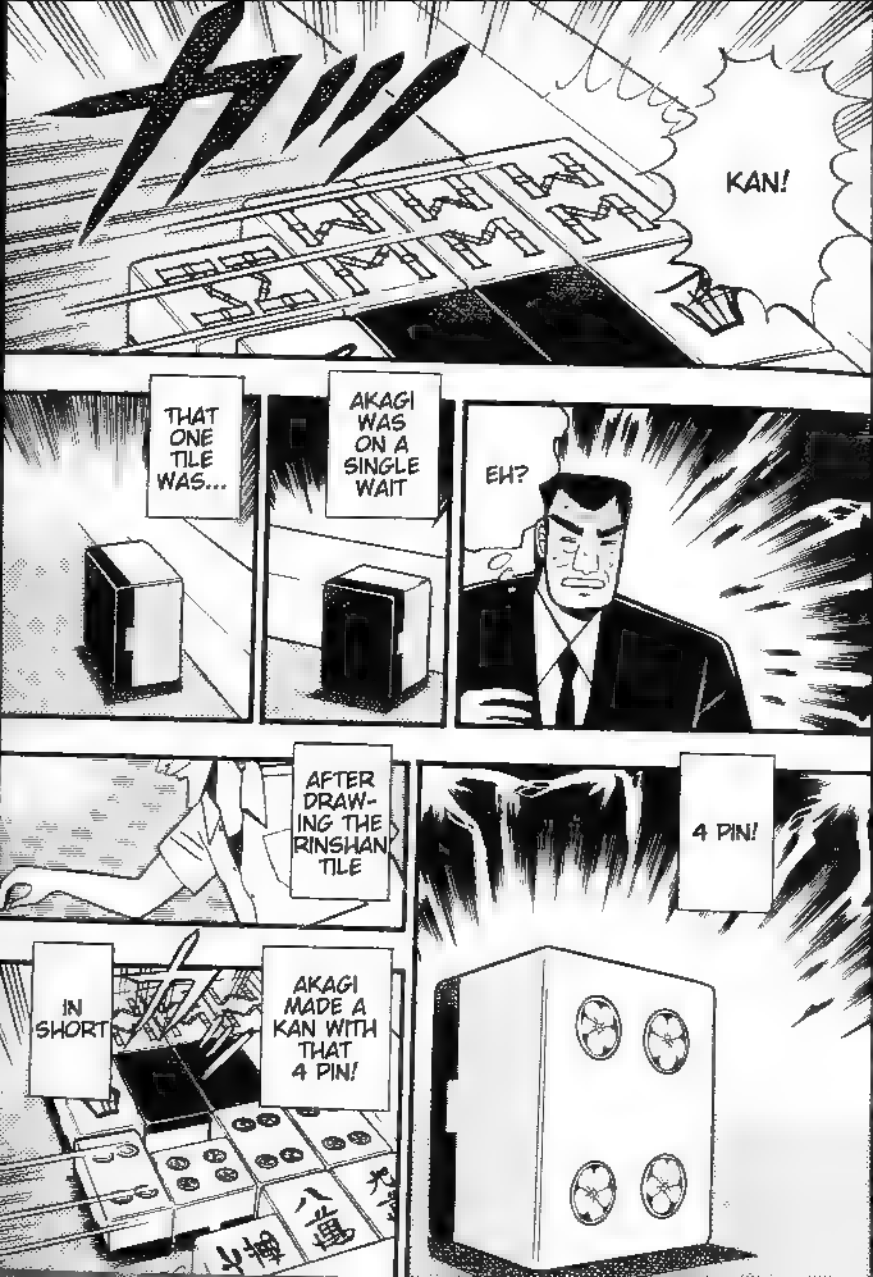
CHI!
NEXT ROUND
ZAWA...
ざわ・・・
...
NOW I'VE APPLIED PRES-SURE ...
FROM THAT MOMENT THE TWO'S WORD AND MAN TILES WERE RESTRICTED
AKAGI'S CALL CAUGHT THEIR ATTEN-TION
NOT A SINGLE ONE WAS DEALT
IN ANY CASE HE HASN'T CUT THE WORD OR MAN TILES...
A CHANTA OR A MANZI HON ITSU?

PON!
9TH TURN
HE CONFINED THEM
BUT THIS WAS AS AKAGI PLANNED
ZAWA...
ざわ・・・
...
カミ!!
八萬
九萬
KAN!
NEXT TURN
ZAWA... ZAWA...
WITH THAT PON THE HON ITSU AND CHANTA VANISHED...
ざわ
ざわ
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT IS HE THINKING ...?

AKAGI MAKES A KAN WITH THE DORA, XIA!
...
DORA 4!
...
ZAWA...
THIS KID COMES AGAIN WITH 4 DORA TILES...
WHAT A STRONG ATTACK...
ざわ...
...

IT'S POSSIBLE HE'S ON A DUAL WAIT
HE MUST HAVE THE HONOR TILES TONG, NAN, HAKU, HATSU OR CHUN SECRETLY SUPPORTING HIS DORA 4
I CAN SEE THAT FROM HIS CALL
THIS BOY'S AIM IS OBVIOUS
BUT...
I KNOW WHERE THE TONG, NAN, HATSU AND CHUN ARE
BUT ...
MEANS HE HAS HONOR TILES IN SECRET
TO MAKE HIS WINNING TICKET EVIDENT...
NEXT TURN, AKAGI
HOWEVER,
I CAN'T CUT THOSE FOUR TILES
IF HE'S ON A SINGLE WAIT
TO MINIMISE THE PAYMENT FOR THE THRICE-CALLED HAND...
HE'S ON A SINGLE WAIT FOR HAKU
IT MUST BE THE REMAINING HAKU

EH...?
...!
CUT A HAKU!
WITH THIS THE SECRET HAKU VANISHES
...
WHY?
ざわ...
ZAWA...
IMPOS-SIBLE...
THAT LEAVES ONLY THE CHUN... NO ONE WILL DEAL THAT
TO BE HONEST CUTTING THAT HAKU MEANT GIVING UP...
CAN'T BE A DUAL WAIT ON TONG, NAN, HATSU OR CHUN
WHAT-EVER IS LEFT
I'M HOLDING ON TO THE TONG, NAN AND HATSU


KAN!
THAT ONE TILE WAS...
AKAGI WAS ON A SINGLE WAIT
EH?
AFTER DRAW-ING THE RINSHAN TILE
4 PIN!
IN SHORT
AKAGI MADE A KAN WITH THAT 4 PIN!

ざわ・
...
ZAWA...
THREE KANS!
CUT THE 1 SOU!
AKAGI THEN DRAWS A RINSHAN TILE AGAIN, AND THE ONE IN HIS HAND...
THE FIRST RIN-SHAN TILE
WASN'T EXPE-CTED ...
THAT HAND...
WHAT KIND OF MAHJONG IS HE PLAYING!!

AKAGI'S THREE KANS, DORA 4!
WITH THIS IT'S COMPLETE!
WHAT IS THIS ...
...
SINGLE WAIT!
I DIDN'T EXPECT A HANE-MAN
HE SOMEHOW CALLED FOUR TIMES

SAFE TILE...
FUFU...
SAFE TILE...
I CANNOT CUT INTO HIS SINGLE WAIT
THIS ACTION IS NATURAL
THINKING ABOUT THE MAHJONG THEY'VE PLAYED SO FAR...
JUST AS I PRED-ICTED
...
KAMI CHA
KU KU KU ...
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'LL DO THEN!
THAT IS FINE...
WELL, BEING SHELTERED BY WHAT YOU CAN SEE
THE PROBLEM IS WHEN YOU HAVE NONE LEFT...

WHAT IS HE INTEND-ING?
THE TILE HE'S WAITING ON RIGHT NOW CAN'T BE THAT ONE
BECAUSE HE CHANGED HIS TILE AND CUT THE 1 SOU JUST NOW
HE'S PLANNING SOME-THING
WHAT IS THIS BRAT WAITING ON?
...
COULD IT BE ...
SINCE HE CUT THAT
IT'S THE BEST TILE FOR A TSUMO
THE 1 SOU IS A LIVE TILE...
I CAN'T CUT THESE LINE OF MAN TILES!
IF SO ...
AIMING FOR A RON?
HE'S WAITING ON ONE OF THE TILES WE HAVE?

...
I SHOULD INSTEAD TURN TO THE SOU OR PIN TILES...
...
THINK, THINK
FUFU...
TO CAUSE A SOUZI AND PINZI OVERFLOW...
MY AIM WAS
YOU'LL FALL INTO MY TRAP
IN THE PROCESS OF THINKING
WHAT REMAINS ARE THE SOU AND PIN TILES, BUT THERE IS NO INSURANCE AGAINST A SINGLE WAIT IN THE FIRST PLACE...
AFTER READING MY CUTTING THE 1 SOU AS AIMING FOR A RON... IT BECOMES DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO CUT THE MAN AND WORD TILES

WHAT WILL FLOW OUT?
IF I ADD A TO THE DANGER A SECOND OR THIRD LAYER OF SAFETY ...
I'D SET A TRAP ON MY PAIR
WHILE YOU WERE THINKING
TO 3 PIN!
I'M LU-RI-ING YOU
FUFU ...
SAME GOES FOR THE 8 SOUS -> 7 AND 9 SOUS...
THE 4 PINS ARE USED UP SO IT'S HARD TO USE 3 PINS
KAMI CHA
AND FACE DEATH!
NOW... COME...

南 東 東 發 發 中

KAMI CHA'S HAND

YURA...

AS IF POSSESSED

HE CUTS...

IF NOT ...

WILL AKAGI'S INSIGHT BRING THE WINNING TILE...?

IS THIS THE WORK OF DEMONS?

...

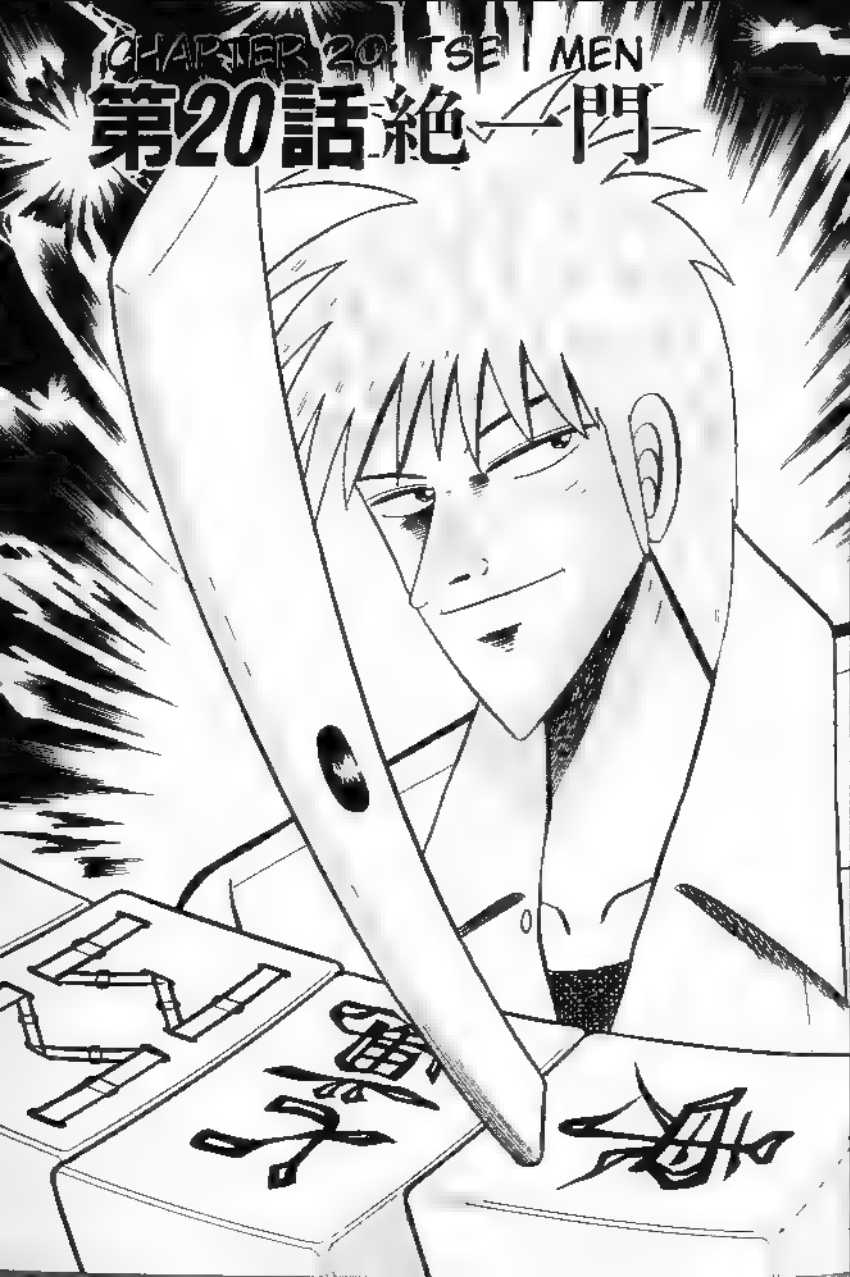
WH-AT EL-SE?

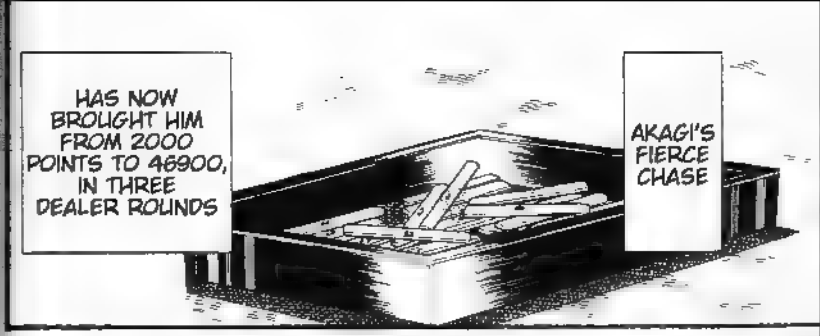
...

3 KAN
DORA 4
HANEMAN
RON...!
HUH!!!...
ERM...
...
4...
46900...!!
YOU DID IIITT!!
YOU DID IT!!
HOW MUCH IS IT WITH THIS!?
FUFU...
UOO!!

RIGHT!
YOU'RE REALLY DEPEND-ABLE
WELL...
YOU'RE REALLY A GENIUS!
YOU SURE DID IT AKAGI
SUCH BIG WORDS...
FUFU ...
...
BUT THERE'S STILL ONE MORE OBST-ACLE BEFORE ME
YOU CAN CELE-BRAT AFTER I KILL HIM...
THAT IS...
FUFU ...
NOW THE MAIN EVENT CAN BEGIN ...
YOU'VE BEEN TOYING WITH THE SMALL FRY
RIGHT...

KILLING ICHIKAWA!


CHAPTER 20: TSE I MEN
第20話 絶一門


HAS NOW BROUGHT HIM FROM 2000 POINTS TO 46900, IN THREE DEALER ROUNDS
AKAGI'S FIERCE CHASE

ZAWA...

AS EXPECTED OF AKAGI ...
HE CHANGED THE FLOW OF THE MATCH
ざわ

THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO GET DIRECT HITS ON ICHIKAWA
THAT IS VERY DIFFI-CULT ...
AKAGI'S AND ICHIKAWA'S MATCH
IN THIS MAHJONG YOU CAN'T JUST BE THE TOP
IS A CONTINUOUS DEATH MATCH UNTIL ONE OF THEM LOSES ALL THEIR POINTS
UP TO NOW IT WAS ALL WARMING UP
BUT...
THE REAL CHALLENGE IS FROM HERE

PERHAPS IT WON'T BE TOO DIFFICULT TO GET A 3900 DIRECT HIT ON ICHIKAWA
HE GAINED 40 OR 50 THOUSAND FROM THE OTHERS
WHY THE 3 PIN FROM THIS HAND?
...?
AKAGI'S HAND
EH?
THE REAL MATCH STARTS HER-
U...
BUT AKAGI CUTS THE 3 PIN ON THE SECOND TURN
AND ON THE THIRD TURN!

CONTIN-
UOUSLY
CUTTING
THREE
3 PINS!
ZAWA...
NO ONE
KNOWS
WHAT HIS
INTENTION
IS
ZAWA...
WHA?
WHAT'S HE
DOING?
AKAGI...
FOR
ONE
PERSON
EX-
CEPT

WHAT ARE THESE TWO DOING?
OI OI
...
ICHIKAWA'S POND
AND ICHIKAWA ACCEPTED
FIRST AKAGI CHALL-ENGED
KILL-ING A COLOR ...
HE DEDUCED THAT NOR-MALLY PLAYING WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO GET DIRECT HITS
THAT'S IT!
HE'S KILLING OFF ONE OF THE THREE COLOURS OF NUMBERED TILES

TSE I MEN!

YOU CAN STAY BACK TO PUT SOME DISTANCE

TO COMPARE, IF ORDINARY MAHJONG WAS LIKE OUT-BOXING

IT'S MAH-JONG WHERE YOU CANNOT RUN

RAISING YOUR CHANCES ALSO RAISES THEIR CHANCES

FIRM-FOOTED INFIGHTING!

CLOSE COMBAT!

BUT TSE I MEN WOULD BE

FROM THE REMAINING TWO COLOURS

THERE WILL BE AN OVERFLOW OF TILES DURING TENPAI

BUT IT'S ALSO EASY TO WIN!

IT'S EASY TO WIN...

AND FORMING HANDS WITH THE REMAINING TWO

BOTH REMOVING A COLOUR

AN UNMOVING BATTLE!

ZAWA...

WAIT... ...

WHY NOW ...

A 2 PIN FROM HIS HAND?

ざわ・・・ EH?

WAS SETTING A TRAP RIGHT FROM THE START!

I SEE... THIS BRAT

ZAWA... ZAWA...

THE WAITS WILL HAVE TO BE ON SOU OR MAN TILES ...

THESE TWO HAVE BEEN IGNORING PIN TILES SINCE THE BEGINNING

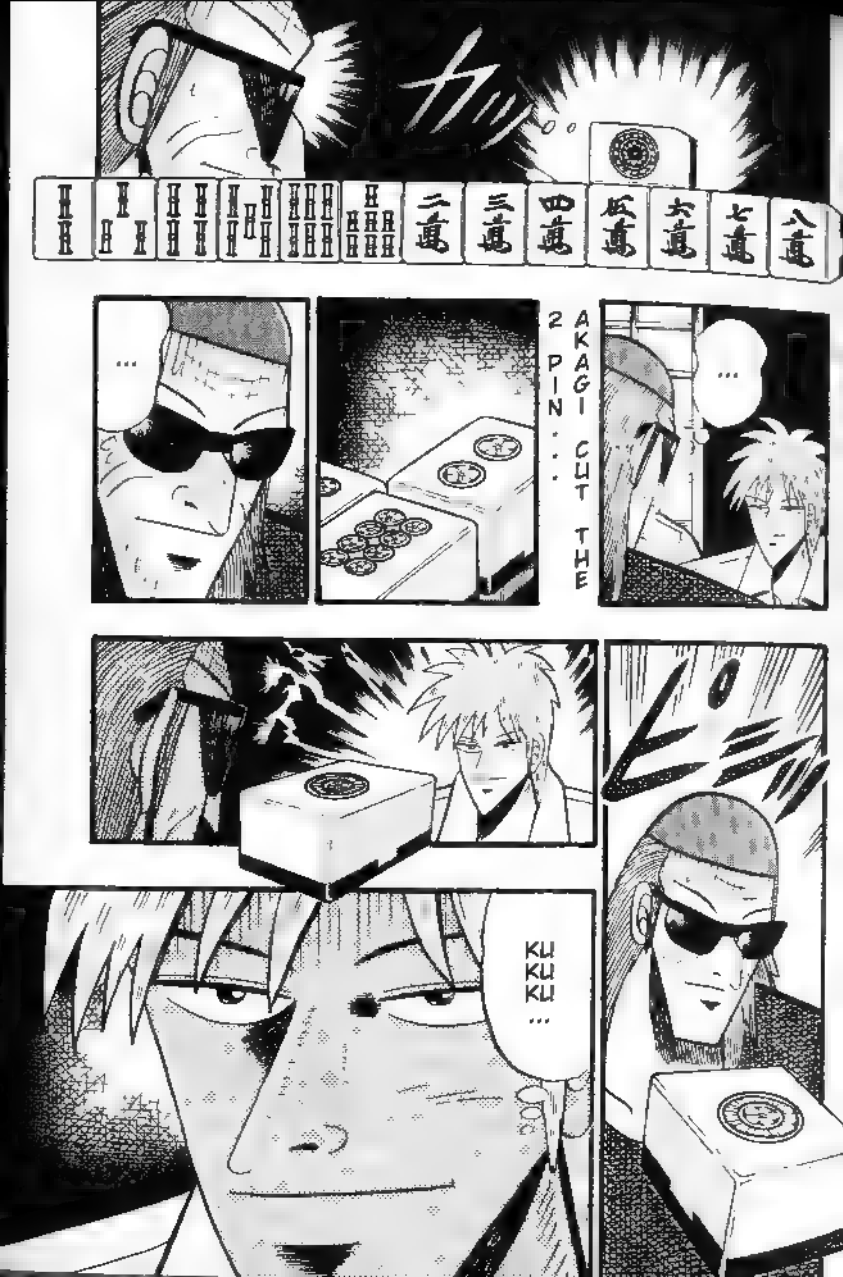
ざわざわ・

RIDICU-LOUS...

AKAGI CUT A 2 PIN ...!

BUT ON THE 13TH TURN

TO PREY ON THE UNGUARDED PIN TILES
THAT WAS AKAGI'S 2 PIN'S AIM
BUT HE ACTED ON THAT BASIS AND WAITED ON A PIN TILE
HE EFFE-CTIVELY CONCEALS IT
WAS THE PIN SUIT!
THE COLOUR THAT WAS TO BE REMOVED BY TSE I MEN THIS ROUND
NATURALLY THAT COLOUR BECOMES A SAFE SUIT
BUT THE SHIMO CHA AND KAMI CHA HAVE CUT ALL THE REMAINING 2 PINS
HE WAS THE ONE WHO PROPOSED THE TSE I MEN AT THE START ...
...SER-IOUSLY, HOW UNPRE-PARED
AND HAD TO GIVE UP ON THE 2 PIN... HE SHOULD BE WAITING FOR SOU OR MAN TILES
HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ...


カッ
二萬
三萬
四萬
伍萬
六萬
七萬
八萬
...
AKAGI CUT THE 2 PIN...
...
KU KU KU...

STRAIGHT THROUGH, DORA 1!

RON

I WOULD MERGE THE PAGES, BUT THERE'S THE FOLDING

THAT BRAT'S MIND IS

WHAT A DEMON ...

SINGLE WAIT ON 1 PIN!

I GET 8600 AND WE ENTER THE THIRD HANCHAN...

STARTS WITH AKAGI OUTWIT-TING ICHIKAWA

THE TSE-I MEN BAT-TLE

THE SIGN OF A GOOD START!

HE'S A FEAR-LESS ONE...

WAS TO HIDE ANOTHER PIN TILE FOR A SINGLE WAIT

HIS REAL AIM

THE 1 PIN!

HE GAVE UP ON THE "2 PIN WAIT" HALFWAY ...

A DOUBLE TRAP!

WAITED ON THAT...

THIS IMP ...

UGH...

TSE I MEN BATTLES BETWEEN THE TWO BEGAN
AND THUS THE END-LESS
FOR SINGLE WAITS!
USED THE COLOUR REMOVED BY TSE I MEN
FROM THERE AKAGI OFTEN
RON!
IT DECIDES THE BATTLE IN A FLASHY WAY

RIICHI
TANYAO
2600
SUCH WAS AKAGI'S VARIABLE FIGHTING
AT FIRST IT APPEARED TO HAVE TOYED WITH ICHIKAWA
DAMN...
...
YOU HIT HIM AGAIN!
YOU DID IT!
FU FU ...

TSUMO!
ICHIKAWA'S PACE WASN'T SHAKEN BY THIS PUNY ATTACK
IN TRUTH, THIS WAS WRONG!
HE SEES TSUMOS NOW AND THEN
DOES NOT CARE FOR THE DIRECT HITS FROM AKAGI
ICHI-KAWA'S ORTHO-DOXY
UGH ...
THE UNA-VOIDABLE OVERFLOW OF TILES
AND THEN THE FATE OF TSE I MEN

TAN PIN DORA 2, MANGAN
RON!
HE ATTACKS!
ZAWA...
KU KU KU ...
...
IT'LL HURT THE PSYCHE
THAT'S EXPECTED OF THE BACKSEAT ICHIKAWA ...
AKAGI IS STILL LEADING ...
THE PAYMENT FOR THIS TILE DOESN'T HURT
CALM DOWN ...
IF YOU PLAY TSE I MEN YOU HAVE TO PAY
...

BUT THE TWO'S FIGHTING STYLES CONTRAST
IT'S THE SAME TSE I MEN BATTLE
THE BATTLE REPEAT-EDLY SHIFTS BACK AND FORTH
ICHIKAWA REMAINS FAITHFUL TO THE BASICS
AKAGI'S METHOD FAVORS CHANGE
BEGANS TO WIDEN
...
THE GAP BET-WEEN THEM
BUT GRAD-UALLY

RON! PINHU IPPEKKOU DORA 2
ZAWA...
さわ
...
...
MAN-GAN
KU KU KU ...
AKAGI'S EXPRESS-ION HAS CHANGED ...
NANGOU-SAN, THAT'S A LITTLE WRONG
NO...
...
THAT OVER-FLOWED TILE WON'T HURT
RELAX, RELAX
IT'S EXPECTED IN TSE I MEN...

AKAGI IS WORRIED!
AKAGI MADE A STRONG IMPRESSION
THE TRICKS IN THE FIRST TWO BOUTS AT THE START WERE FINE
ON THE OTHER HAND, ICHIKAWA'S WINNING METHOD IS ORDINARY ...
BUT...
I HAD THE SAME THOUGHT AS YOU, NANGOU-SAN
AT FIRST
THE TRU-TH WAS ...
...
EH...?

EH?
THE POINTS ARE BEING CONTROLLED BY ICHIKAWA!
THE POINTS WON DIFFER EACH ROUND...
THEY HAVE HIT EACH OTHER ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF TIMES...
HE WALKS THE WINNING PATH OF MAHJONG BY INCORPORATING YAKU INTO HIS HAND
ICHIKAWA'S TANYAO, PINHU AND IPPEKKOU
AKAGI'S CHANGING WAITS ARE HARDER TO INCORPORATE YAKU INTO
THAT'S NATURAL
IT'S ALWAYS A CHEAP HAND

BECAUSE ICHIKAWA'S TSUMO WINS OFFSET THE HANDS HE GAVE AWAY
BUT IT ACTUALLY MAKES THE WIN BIG
HE'S WINNING AKAGI IN THE FIGHT FOR POINTS
ALTHOUGH HE USED A RYANMEN WAIT AT TIMES
IT'S TRUE THAT THIS WINNING METHOD IS DULL
HE DOESN'T SUPPORT AN "I COULD HAVE DONE THAT" IMAGE
WERE TURNED ON HIM!
YOU COULD SAY THE CARDS THAT AKAGI USED
RON!

KU KU KU ...
UGH ...
IT CANNOT WORK DUE TO THE OVERFLOW OF TILES
YOUR TSE I MEN WAITING METHOD IS ABSURD
YES
YOU'RE GRADU-ALLY FEELING IT, AKAGI-KUN...
I HAVE CRUSHED THEM...
THE CARDS THAT YOU LIKE...
BUT I WIN!
...
WELL... IT'S FINE THAT YOU'RE BETTER AT MAHJONG, AND I PAY AT TIMES
IT'S FINE THAT I'M WORSE ...

THAT IS SOMETHING EVEN GOD CANNOT DO!
TO DEFEAT ME YOU HAVE TO DEFY THE LOGIC OF MAHJONG...

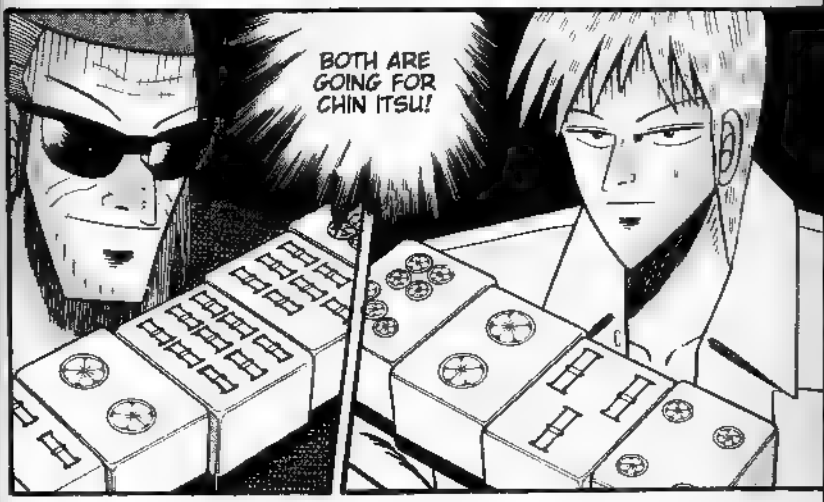
第21話窮地
CHAPTER 21: DILEMMA

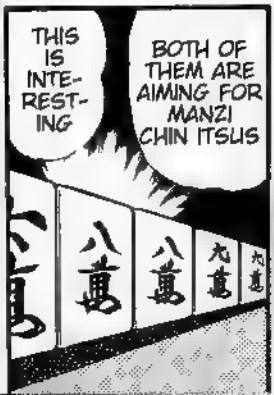
AKAGI AND ICHIKAWA'S TSE I MEN BATTLE...
AT FIRST THE MATCH SEEMED EVEN
LATER THE TWO'S SKILL DIFFERENCE BECOMES CLEARER
ICHIKAWA HAS THE ADVANTAGE WITH THE TSE I MEN
AKAGI KNOWS IT
ON THE OTHER HAND AKAGI'S
ONCE 55000 POINTS HAD SLOWLY DEPLETED TO 23000
ICHI-KAWA'S POINTS KNOW NO LIMIT
HE'D FINALLY EXCEEDED 100 THOUSAND POINTS!

HE'S FINALLY GOING FOR THE KILL!
HE GIVES UP ON TSUMOS FOR DIRECT HITS ON AKAGI
ICHI-KAWA'S STYLE CHAN-GED!
AND TO GET RID OF THE 25000
...
WITNESS - TAKEYOSHI GROUP LEADER MIYAUCHI
WILL ICHIKAWA DECISIVELY SETTLE IT?
OR WILL AKAGI REBOUND?
IT'S BEEN 2 HOURS SINCE THE TSE I MEN BEGAN ...
THE CLIMAX HAS COME AT LAST ...

ざわ
ざわ..

ZAWA... ZAWA...

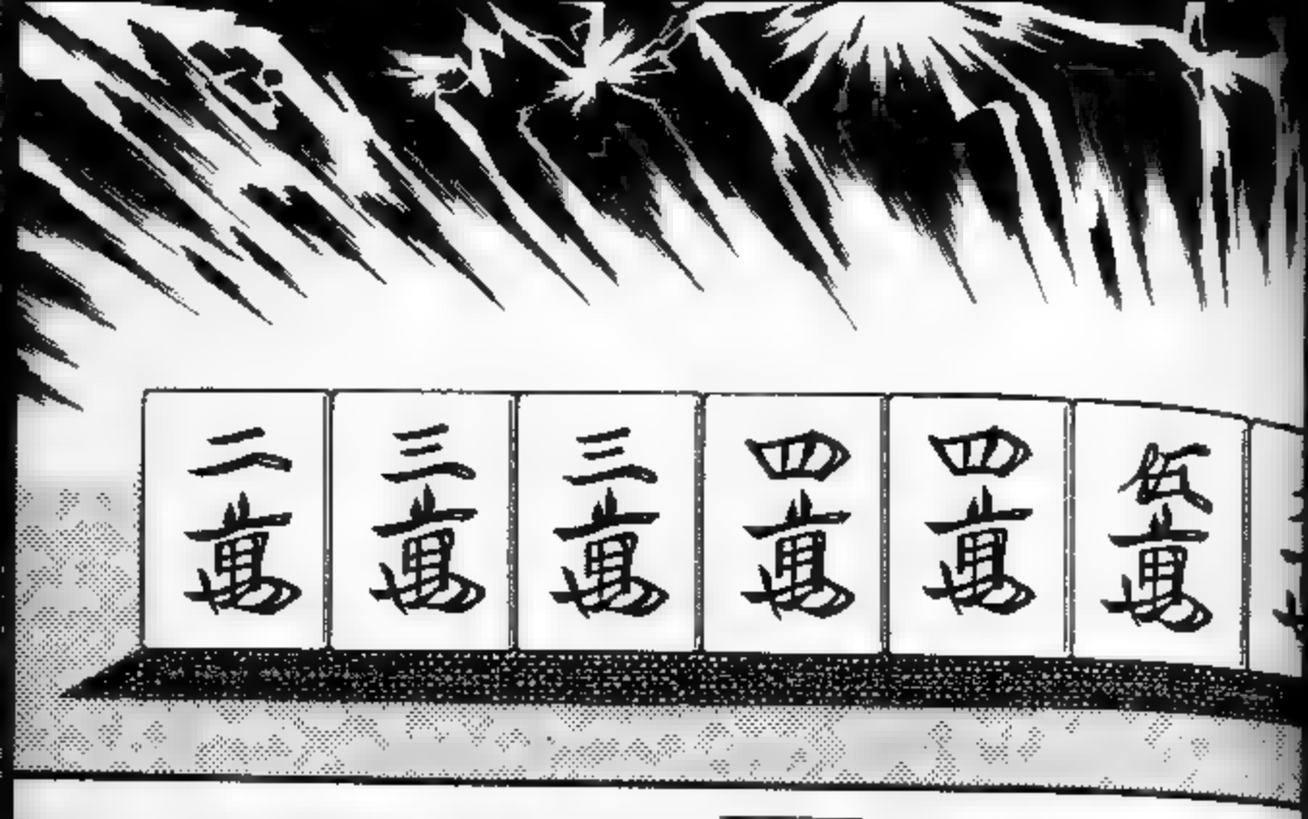

BOTH ARE GOING FOR CHIN ITSU!

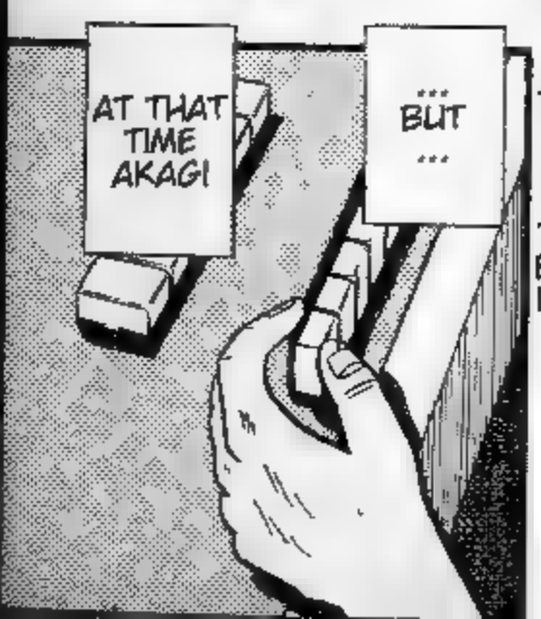

THIS IS INTE-REST-ING
BOTH OF THEM ARE AIMING FOR MANZI CHIN ITSUS
八萬
八萬
九萬
九萬

TSE I MEN INTO TSE RYAN MEN!

I SEE, I SEE
FUFU ...

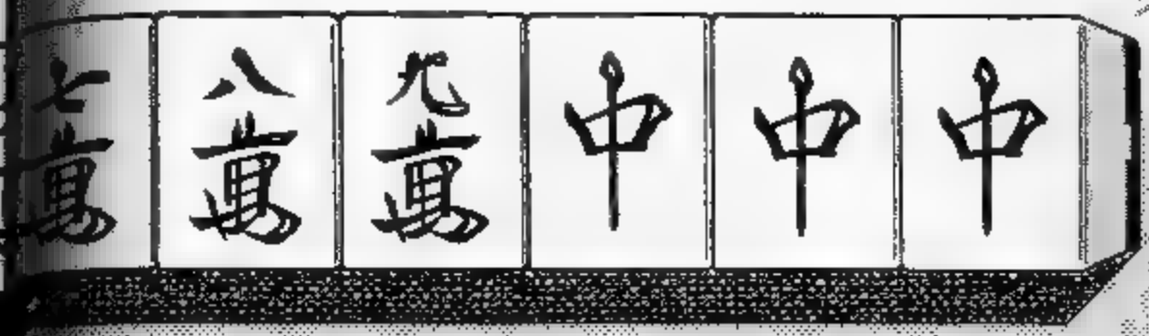
IF YOU PATIENTLY WAIT FOR THE WINNING TILE YOU'RE DEAD
THE TWO'S HANDS ARE BECOMING STRONGER
TSE RYAN MEN IS GRAPPLING
IF TSE I MEN WAS INFIGHTING
CHIRA...
THE WINNING TILE IS MORE LIKELY TO BE SEIZED BY ICHIKAWA
THE FLOW ISN'T WITH AKAGI
ISN'T THIS A LITTLE RECKLESS?
AKAGI...
...
7TH TURN
WHILE ICHIKAWA WAS IN GOOD SHAPE
YASUOKA'S ANALYSIS WAS RIGHT
IN-DEED ...
AKAGI HAS NO POWER

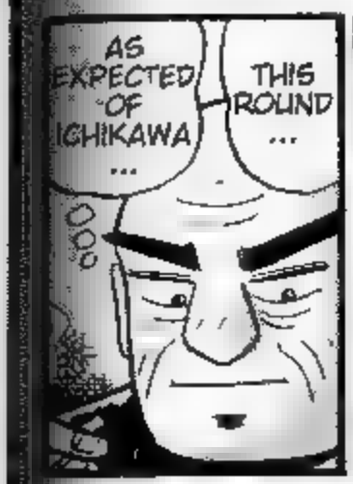


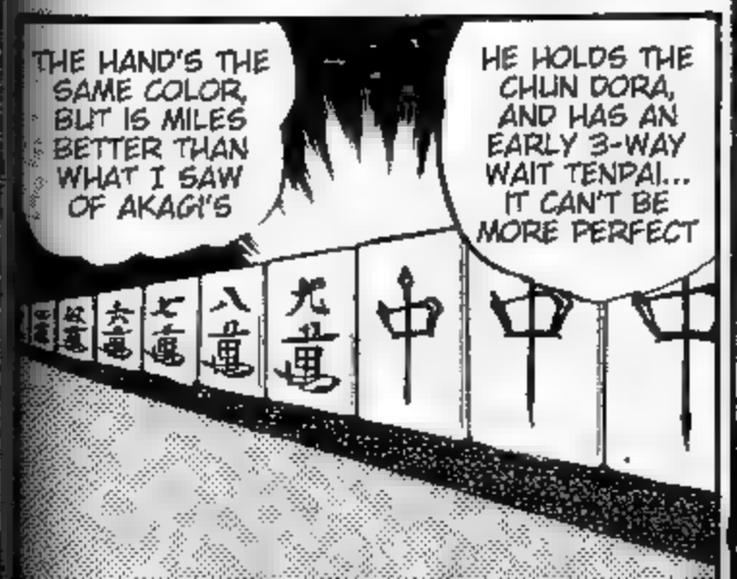


WITHIN 7 TURNS THE ROUND SEEMED TO HAVE ENTERED ITS END-GAME

ICHIKAWA, TENPAI!






THE HAND'S THE SAME COLOR, BUT IS MILES BETTER THAN WHAT I SAW OF AKAGI'S
HE HOLDS THE CHUN DORA, AND HAS AN EARLY 3-WAY WAIT TENPAI... IT CAN'T BE MORE PERFECT

WAS STILL AT THIS STAGE!

THIS WAY THE REMAINING 9 MANS ARE STILL IN GOOD SHAPE

THEY'RE HARDER TO FLOW OUT

THE CALL PLACED ONE OF THE DANGER TILES IN A SET

...

HE DEFTLY DODGED THE DANGER

AKAGI'S SENSES WERE SHARP

WHILE IT MAY BE 1 TILE FROM 7 PAIRS

THIS HAND ...

CHI!

HE CALLED ON THE SOUTH'S 7 MAN!

SO HE STRUCK

AKAGI FELT ITS CONNECTION TO ICHIKAWA

IT WAS BAD...

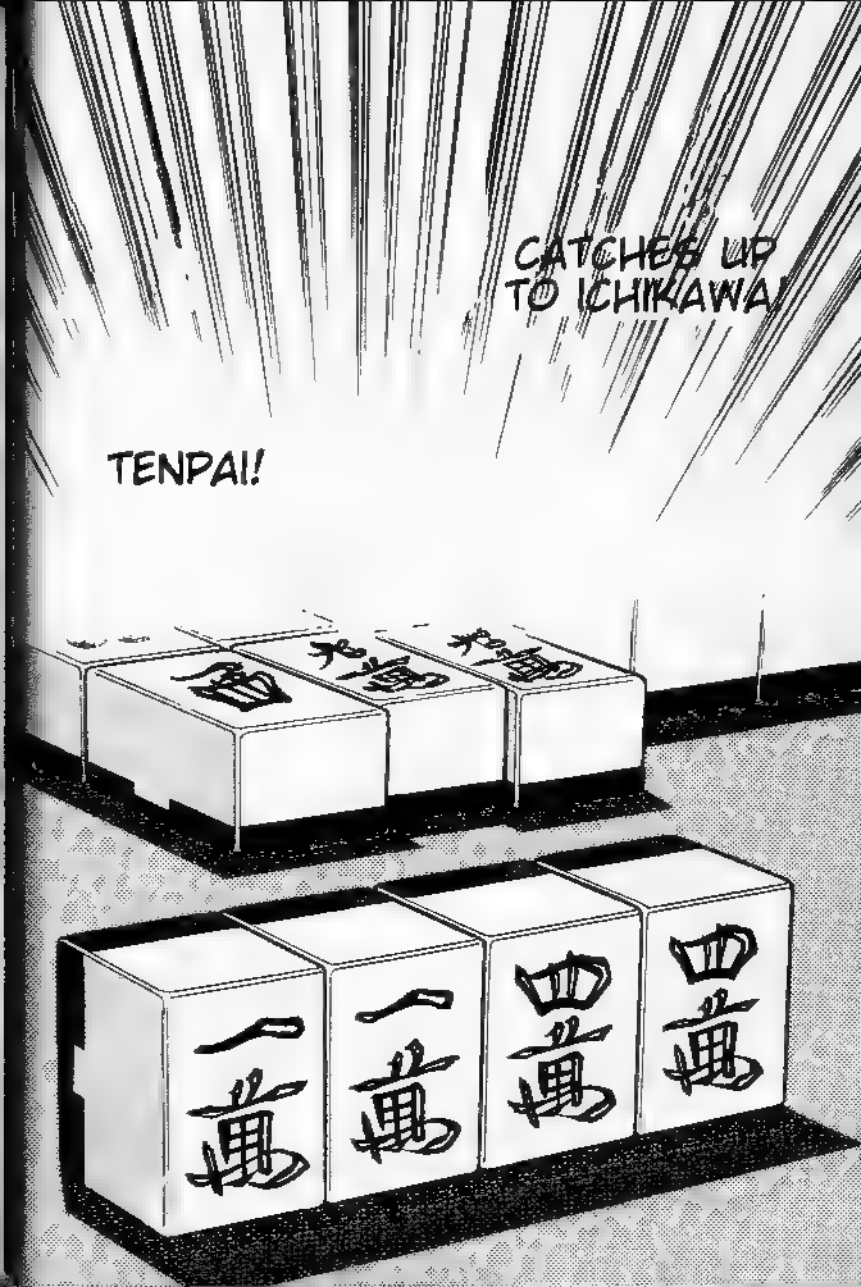
THE OUT-FLOWING 9 MAN IS ICHIKAWA'S WINNING TILE

HE READ IT PRECISELY
AKAGI INTENDS TO USE UP HIS 3, 6 AND 9 MANS
CAUGHT ONTO AKAGI'S MOVE
HOWEVER, ICHIKAWA...
CHI!
5 MAN
THE 3, 6, 9 MANS WON'T FLOW FROM HIM...
NOW...
カミ

ICHIKAWA CHANGED HIS WAIT
FROM 3, 6, 9 TO 2, 5, 8 MAN!
CHI
HE MOVES TO WAIT ON AKAGI'S NEXT OUTFLOWING TILE, 8 MAN
...
LIKE A RADAR-GUIDED MISSILE
HE MARKS HIS TARGET'S MOVE-MENTS CLOSELY
HE PUR-SUES!
ICHIKAWA'S 2, 5, 8 WAIT
CHI

CHI!
AKAGI PARRIES THAT
HE USES HIS 8 MAN!
...
ICHIKAWA'S WAIT WAS ONCE AGAIN SHAKEN OFF!
THE 8 MAN IN HIS HAND IS GONE
CUT-TING 9 MAN

THAT WAS ICHIKAWA'S WINNING TILE
2 MAN!
9TH TURN
HE'S AIMING FOR A DIRECT HIT ON AKAGI THIS ROUND...
BUT ICHIKAWA DOESN'T MOVE...
WITH THAT, AKAGI
THEN I'LL TAKE IT!
PON
FUFU... IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO SETTLE IT


CATCHES UP TO ICHIKAWA!
TENPAI!

AT LAST AT A 1 AND 4 MAN TENPAI WAIT!
ICHI-KAWA'S WAIT SLIPS BY
...
HE AVOIDS ICHI-KAWA

THE HAND CAN STILL CHANGE!

RELENTLESSLY PURSUING!

ARE SURELY 1, 4, AND 7 MAN...

RIGHT NOW HIS REMAINING TILES

AKAGI HAS CLEARED ALL THE 3, 6, 9 AND 2, 5, 8 MANS IN HIS HAND

ICHIKAWA IS ONE STEP HIGHER!

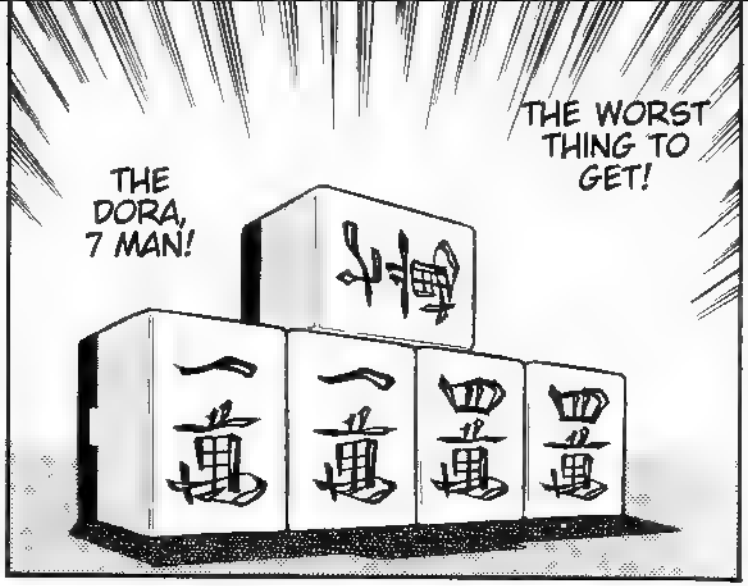
THEY BOTH WAIT ON THE SAME TILES BUT WITH AN ADDITIONAL 7 MAN

AKAGI'S 1, 4 MAN AND ICHI-KAWA'S 1, 4, 7 MAN WAIT

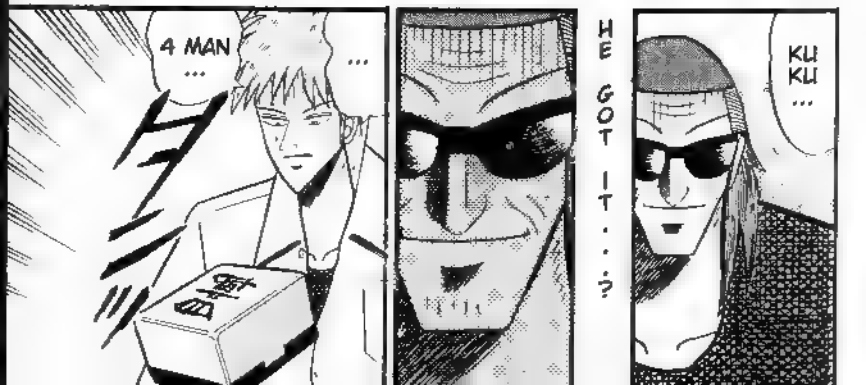
ICHIKAWA 1, 4, 7 MAN WAIT

WE'LL WAIT ON THE SAME TENPAI!

AKAGI!


THE WORST THING TO GET!
THE DORA, 7 MAN!

...UGH...
...


4 MAN...
...
HE GOT IT...?
KU KU...

RON!

...

I'VE CAUGHT YOU AT LAST

AKAGI SHIGERU ...!

ZAWA... ZAWA...

ざわ・・・

KU KU KU ...

DEALER HANEMAN, 18000

AAH... IT'S FUTILE

SEEMS LIKE ICHI-KAWA IS REALLY UNRIV-ALED

ZAWA...

ざわ・・・

?

HE COULD EVEN BE SAID TO SURPASS ICHIKAWA...

BUT THE LOSER, AKAGI, DID NOT LOSE IN STRATEGY...

NO ...

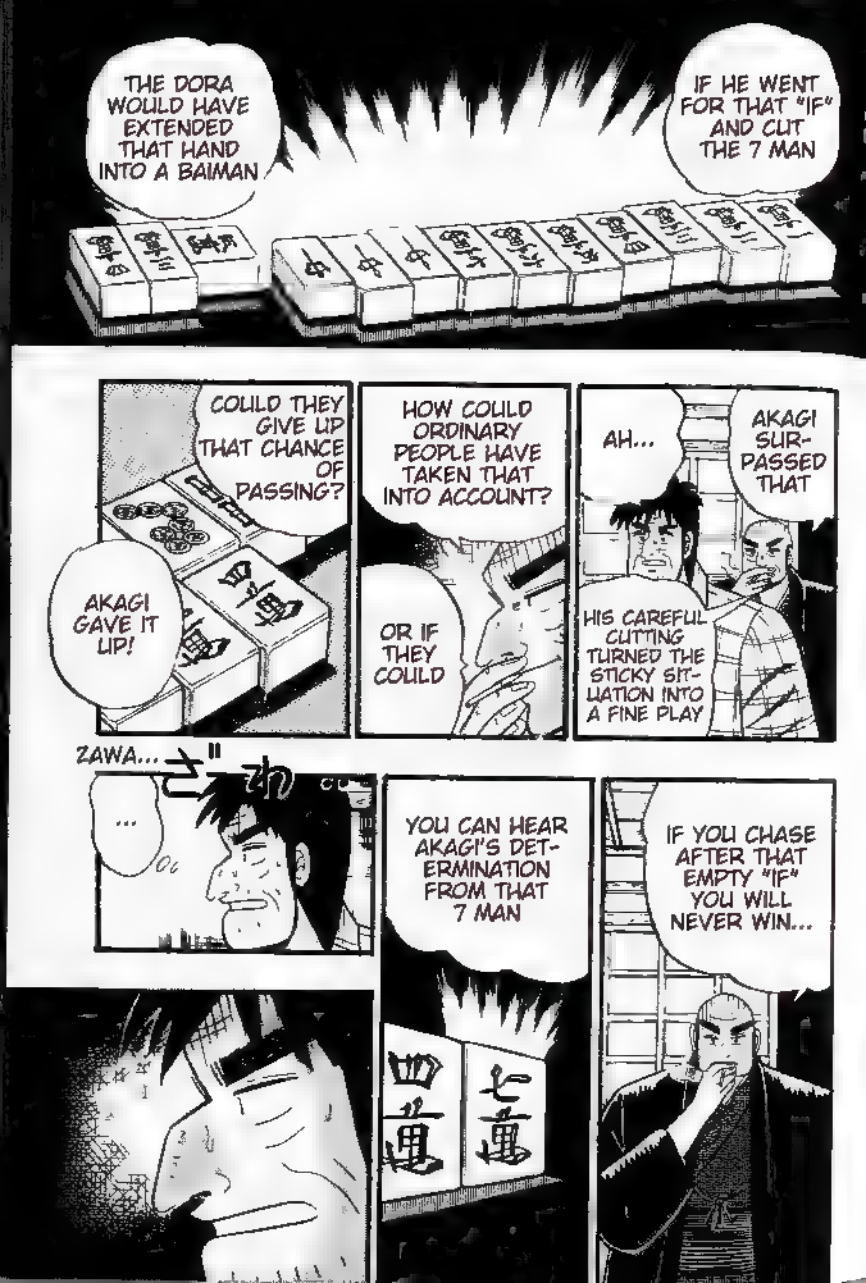
THAT MIGHT NOT BE TRUE

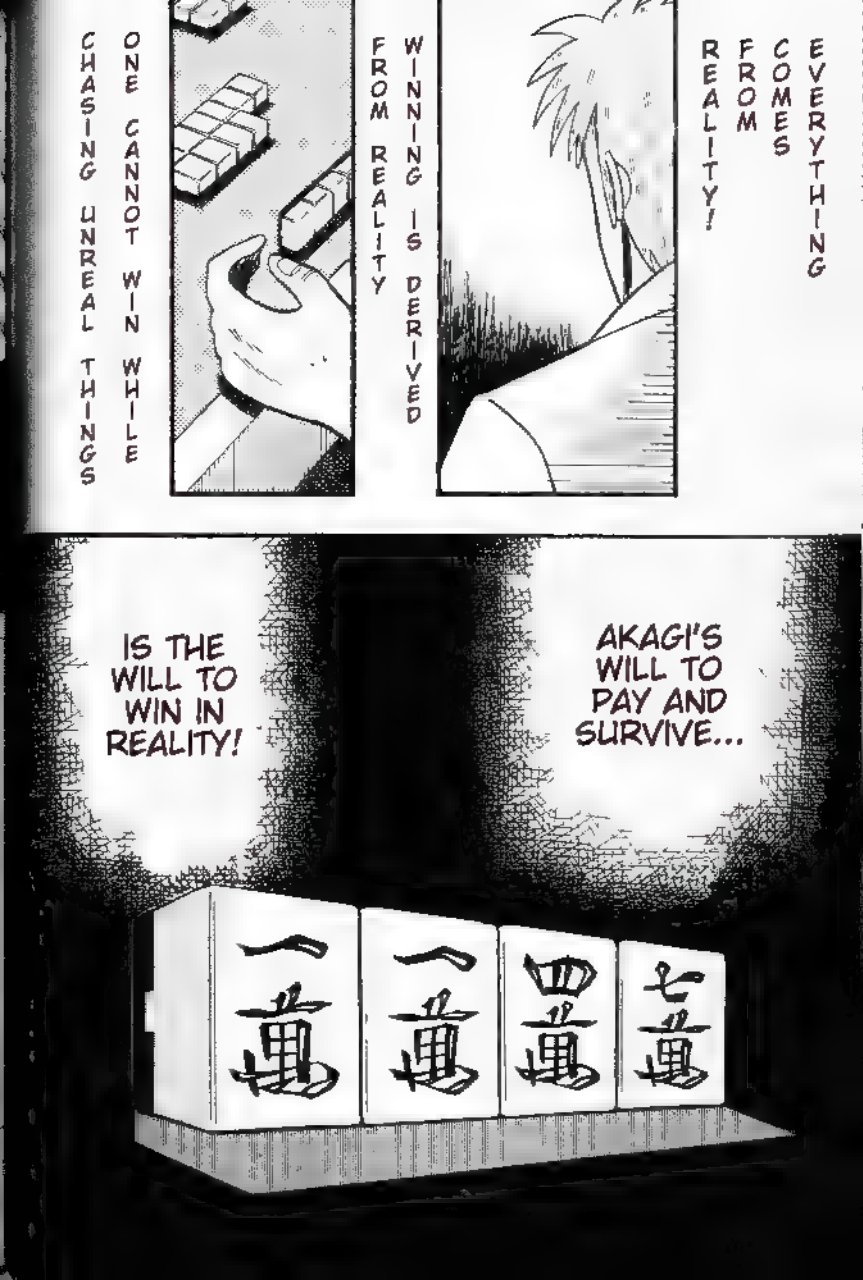
IT'S TRUE THAT THE CHASING OF TILES

PROVED THAT ICHI-KAWA'S MAHJONG IS SUPERB

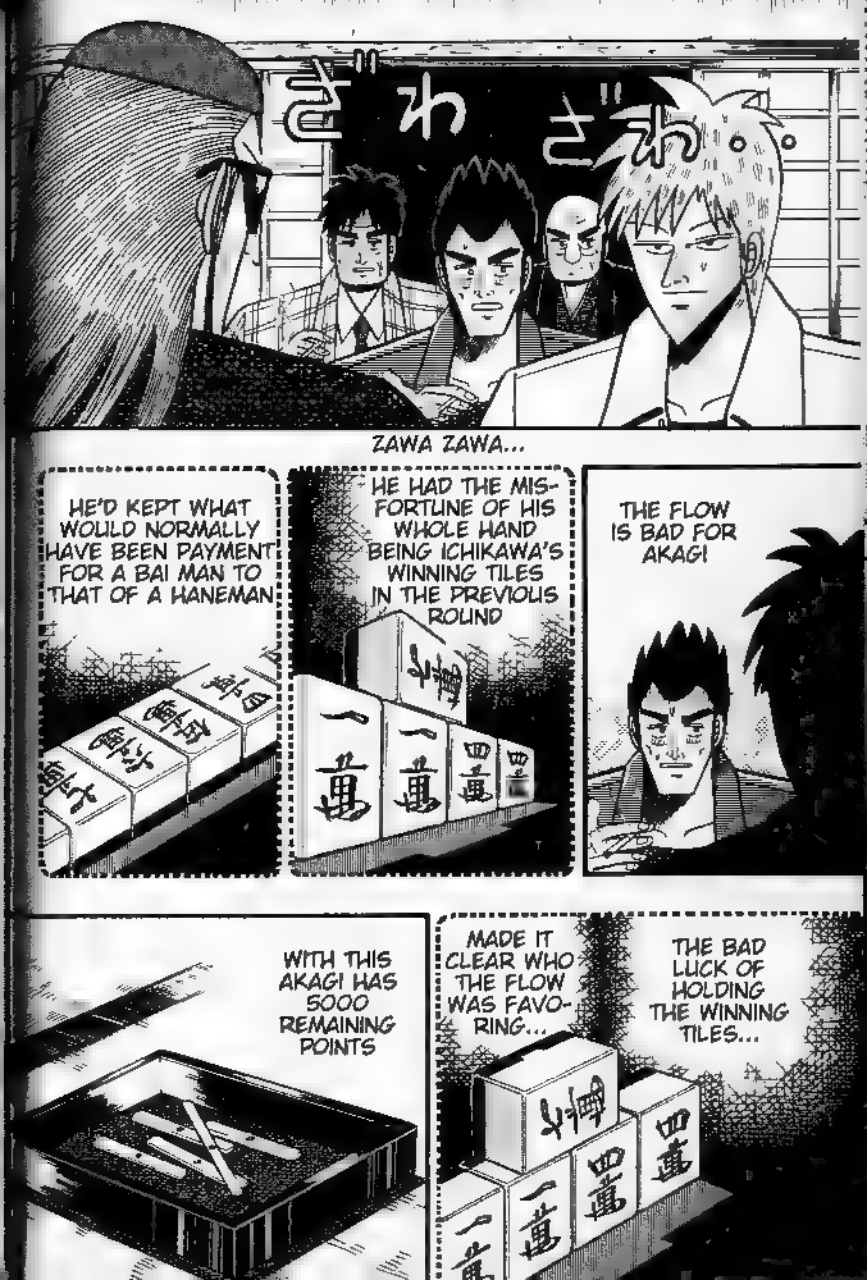
HIS TECHNI-QUES ARE BEYOND HUMAN...

AND ENDED UP WITH THAT 1, 4 MAN WAIT TENPAI
AKAGI AVOIDED ICHIKAWA'S WAITS THIS MATCH
WHAT'S DO YOU MEAN?
...
AND HIT THAT 7 MAN ...
YOU WOULD HAVE REACHED FOR THE 7 MAN ...
IF YOU FEEL THAT THE 1, 4, AND 7 MAN WERE ALL RISKY...
...
YASUOKA-SAN, WHAT WOULD YOU CUT IN THIS CASE?
WHAT ...
AKAGI DIDN'T PURSUE THAT ONE-IN-A-MILLION "IF"
HOW-EVER ...
YOU'LL ALSO WANT TO KEEP YOUR TENPAI IF THERE WAS A ONE-IN-A-MILLION CHANCE YOUR TILE COULD PASS
THE 1, 4 AND 7 MAN WERE ALL EQUALLY RISKY
THAT THOUGHT IS INTENSIFIED BY THE PAINS YOU UNDER-WENT FOR THAT TENPAI


THE DORA WOULD HAVE EXTENDED THAT HAND INTO A BAIMAN
IF HE WENT FOR THAT "IF" AND CUT THE 7 MAN
COULD THEY GIVE UP THAT CHANCE OF PASSING?
AKAGI GAVE IT UP!
HOW COULD ORDINARY PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN THAT INTO ACCOUNT?
OR IF THEY COULD
AH...
AKAGI SURPASSED THAT
HIS CAREFUL CUTTING TURNED THE STICKY SITUATION INTO A FINE PLAY
ZAWA...
...
YOU CAN HEAR AKAGI'S DETERMINATION FROM THAT 7 MAN
IF YOU CHASE AFTER THAT EMPTY "IF" YOU WILL NEVER WIN...


EVERYTHING COMES FROM REALITY!
WINNING IS DERIVED FROM REALITY
ONE CANNOT WIN WHILE CHASING UNREAL THINGS
AKAGI'S WILL TO PAY AND SURVIVE...
IS THE WILL TO WIN IN REALITY!

CHAPTER 22: WILD CARD
第22話 暴牌


ざわ ざわ。
ZAWA ZAWA...
HE'D KEPT WHAT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE BEEN PAYMENT FOR A BAI MAN TO THAT OF A HANEMAN
HE HAD THE MISFORTUNE OF HIS WHOLE HAND BEING ICHIKAWA'S WINNING TILES IN THE PREVIOUS ROUND
THE FLOW IS BAD FOR AKAGI
WITH THIS AKAGI HAS 5000 REMAINING POINTS
MADE IT CLEAR WHO THE FLOW WAS FAVORING...
THE BAD LUCK OF HOLDING THE WINNING TILES...

AKAGI ...
I BEG OF YOU
EVERYTHING WILL BE OVER!
IF HE HAS TO PAY ICHIKAWA ONE MORE TIME
HOW-EVER, YOU
HAVE ALWAYS OVERTURNED THAT SORT OF LOGIC
YOU'RE UNDOUBTEDLY A GENIUS...
YOU ALREADY HAD A DIFF-ERENCE IN SKILL. THAT I UNDER-STAND.
IN TERMS OF EXP-ERIENCE, COMPARED TO ICHI-KAWA
AKAGI...!
LET ME SEE JUST ONCE MORE
PLEASE AKAGI ...
THAT MIRA-CULOUS MAHJONG THAT CAN ESCAPE FROM HELL

AKAGI'S HAND!

YOU MUST PUSH YOUR LUCK TO THE MAX!

IN ORDER TO GET THE FLOW

THE FLOW REALLY ISN'T WITH AKAGI...

HE'S SEVERELY LIMITED JUST BY HIS POINTS

WHAT A FUCKED-UP HAND!

IT'S NO USE

KOKUSHI MUSOU: THE ONE PEOPLE GET EXCITED ABOUT

IF YOU CONSIDER THE LAST ROUND

OF COU-RSE ...

THAT'S NO WAY AKAGI'S HAND WILL BE GOOD

THE WORST... AKAGI'S HAND IS

...

I WAS MISTAKEN IN BEGG-ING A CHILD

I'M AN IDIOT ...

HAVING ONLY SIX TILES WON'T DO

IF HE HAD MORE THAN NINE OR TEN TERMINAL AND HONOR TILES HE COULD GO FOR THE KOKUSHI

ON THE OTHER SIDE, ICHIKAWA'S HAND

COMPARED TO AKAGI'S HAND, IT'S LIKE HEAV-EN AND EARTH

IT'S A GODLY ONE!

WHAT'S WITH THIS HAND?

U...

AKAGI WILL PAY HIS REMAINING 5000 AND DIE

THAT'LL BE THE END

GIVEN THE FLOW, THE ODDS OF THAT ARE ABOUT 9 IN TEN...

IF ICHIKAWA WINS WITH A HANEMAN

IT'S 60-00 EACH

WE'LL SEE THE END OF THE MATCH WITH JUST A TSUMO!

THIS IS A GREAT DIFFER-ENCE...

WHAT'S MORE, SUCH A HEAVY HAND OPENS WITH 2 SHAN TEN

WITH PINFU, STRAIGHT THROUGH AND TSUMO IT'LL BE A HANEMAN

WITH A DORA 2 BONUS!

WHAT LUCK!

AKAGI'S HAND

THE DORA, 4 MAN!

BOL-DLY CUTS ...!

BUT AKAGI NEXT

WHAT KIND OF INSANITY IS HE GIVING IN TO AT THE VERY END?

TWO CONSEC-UTIVE RISKY TILES!

5, 5 MAN!?

EH!?

THAT'S CLOSE TO THE DANGER TILES OF THE KAMI CHA'S RIICHI!

...
THIS IS ABSURD ...
ざわざわ
...
ZAWA ZAWA...
AKAGI IS DESPERATE WITH THIS BLUFF
I SEE
...
BUT THAT CRAZY ACTION'S POINT IS ACTUALLY TO FOOL PEOPLE
BY HITTING PEOPLE WITH SUCH AN UNPROFITABLE ATTACK
AT FIRST GLANCE, GIVING UP THE ONLY LIFE IN YOUR TRASHY HAND IS STUPID
IN CUTTING THOSE TWO TILES, AKAGI HAD PREPARED FOR DEATH
THE RIICHI IS LIKELY USING MANZI TILES FOR ITS WAIT

...
IN ORDER TO FOOL PEOPLE!
CUTTING HIS OWN BODY.
WHEN SUSPICION IS NURTURED
ITS HORROR IS BORN ...
AKAGI'S BURST OF SPIRIT IS MAKING THE OPPONENTS SUSPICIOUS
AKAGI'S CRAPPY HAND DOESN'T APPEAR CRAPPY AT ALL!
...

COULD IT BE A KOKUSHI MUSOU?

...

TRUTH MADE BY AKAGI'S SELF-SACRIFICE!

LIES BECOME TRUTH!

THE SHIMO CHA IS OUT

WITH THAT ONE CUT AKAGI'S BLUFF CONTROLS THE GAME

AKAGI THEN CUTS THE PEI NEXT

WITH THAT ADDITIONAL STEP OF CONTROL

THE KAMI CHA TENSES

ICHIKAWA, TENPAI!

HE DEALS INTO THE KAMI CHA'S RIICHI

RON!

U...

ZAWA...

...

IM-POS-SIBLE ...

WHY?

ざわ...

CUTTING 5 MAN HERE... A TSUMO WOULD MAKE A HANE-MAN

PER-FECT ...

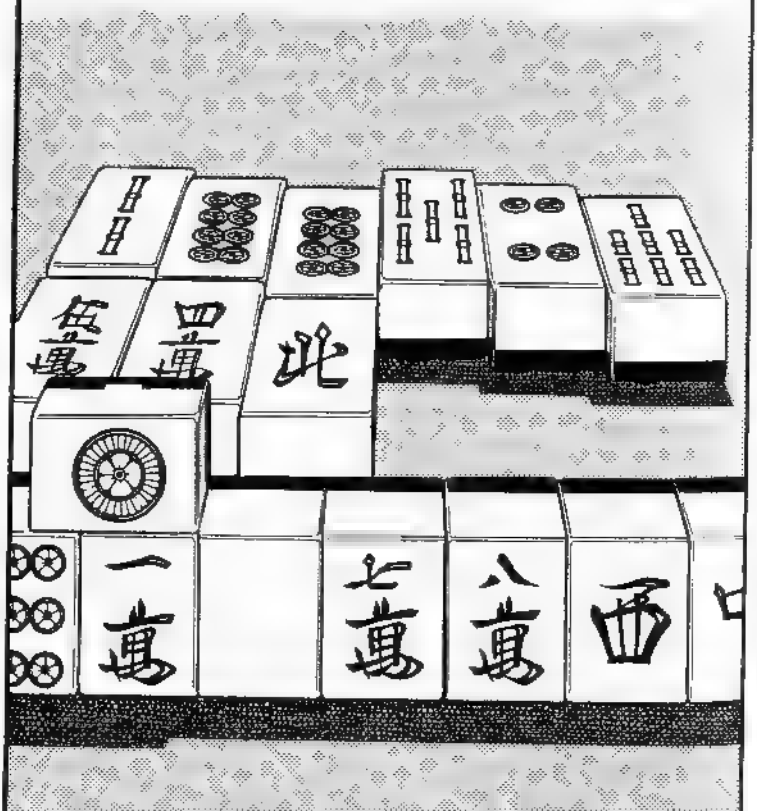
CUT THE 3 MAN!

BUT ICHI-KAWA

WE'LL SETTLE THIS WITH A TSUMO!

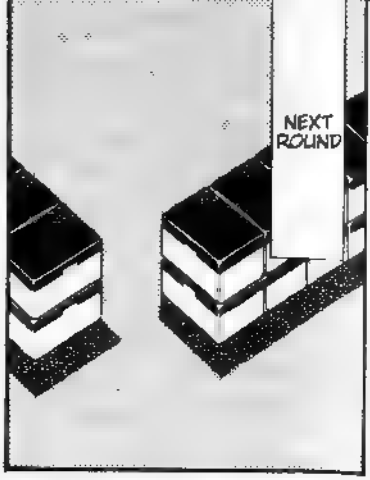
ICHIKAWA RIGHT NOW HOLDS MORE THAN 100000 POINTS
PAYING ANYONE DOESN'T MATTER TO HIM
IT'S A LOGICAL DECISION BY ICHIKAWA
I SEE
FUFU ...
BUT WITH THIS TEMPO BREAK
SUCH A STOP IS EXPECTED OF HIM
THE MATCH'S FLOW MAY CHANGE ...
AKAGI'S REMAINING 5000 WOULD SHOOT BEYOND HIS REACH AGAIN
HE CONSIDERED IF HE COULD MAKE A TSUMO BEFORE THAT
HE MUST HAVE SEEN THAT KOKUSHI AS 90% BLUFF ...
HE JUST WANTS TO PREVENT AKAGI FROM WINNING...
BUT IF IT FORMED
IN THE END, AKAGI'S
STARTING HAND
中
西
北
北
AND DRAWS
北
STOPPED ICHIKAWA FROM BEING THE DEALER!

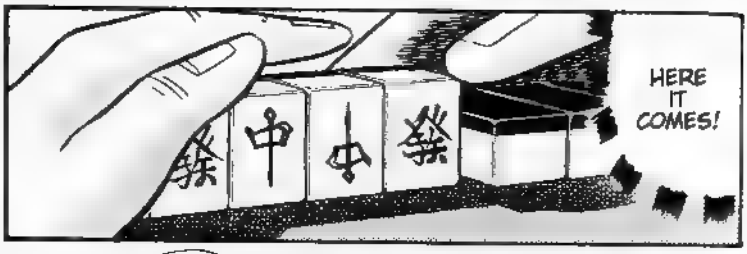
THINKING ABOUT IT, THIS IS A GODLY PLAY THAT LET HIM ESCAPE FROM THE DEPTHS OF DOOM... WITH THIS TRASH HAND!



ざわ・ざわ
ZAWA... ZAWA...
HE'LL UNHESITATINGLY CUT HIMSELF ...
TO TURN THE LIES TO TRUTH
THIS IS AKAGI'S MAHJONG
AKAGI'S SPIRIT DRAGS ICHIKAWA DOWN WITH ALL HIS MIGHT!
AS THE BLOOD DRIPS DROP BY DROP...

THE TILES THAT CAME WITH AKAGI FROM HELL!





HE DRAWS IT!

WAS TAKEN FROM THE DEMONS!

SAN BAI MAN ...

HON ITSU, CHANTA, 3 AN KOU, CHUN, HATSU, DORA 1

CHANTA: YOUR TRIPLETS/SEQUENCES CONTAIN 1 OR 9 TILES
3 AN KOU: GETTING THREE TRIPLETS BY YOURSELF

THE SAND AT THE BOTTOM OF HELL

IS MAGICAL SAND

KU KU KU ...

GU...

...

ZAWA... ZAWA...

WHENEVER HE SURPASSES DEATH, HE GETS A DEMONIC HAND

...

AKAGI! IS THIS IS LUCK?

WHAT KIND OF HAND IS THAT!

WINS ON A TSUMO WITH THAT HAND

FIVE TURNS LATER, AKAGI

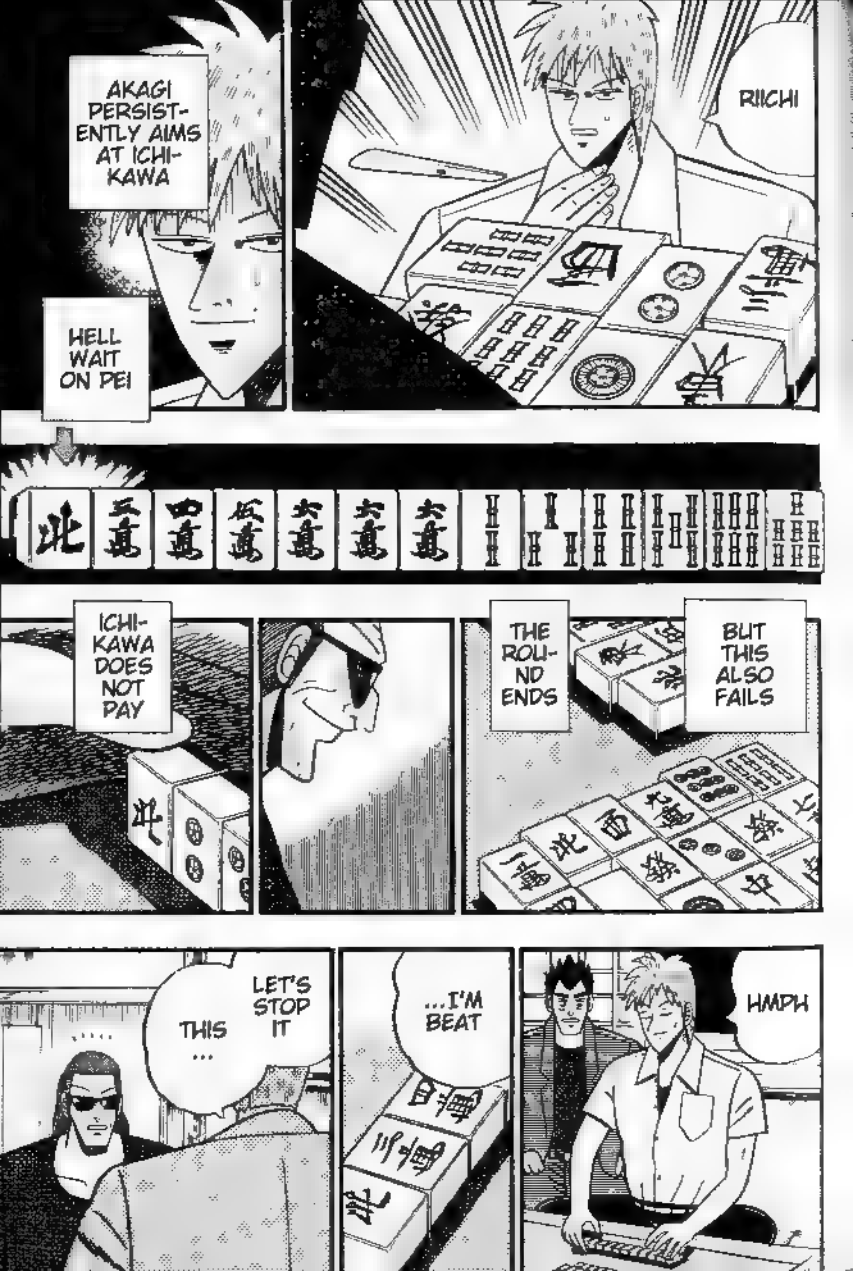
それに触れてくると
強運と破滅がひっくり返る…！
USING HIS STRONG LUCK TO OVERTURN HIS RUIN...
コインの表と裏のように…！
THE FLIP SIDE OF THE COIN!

CHAPTER 23: VILLAIN
第23話悪漢

AKAGI VS ICHI-KAWA
BUT WITH THE LAST ROUND'S 29000 POINT SAN BAI MAN
AT ONE POINT AKAGI WAS CHASED DOWN TO 5000 POINTS
SO AS TO STOCK UP...
FIRST HE TAKES 5800 FROM THE SHIMO CHA
HE BECOMES THE DEALER AGAIN

MANGAN 1 REN CHAN
4100 ALL
TSUMO!
ZAWA...
ざわ・・
HE CONTINUES WINNING WITH THE FLOW!
BUT THE PROBLEM OF WINNING LIES AHEAD
SO FAR IT'S BEEN FAVOURABLE
HE ONCE AGAIN REVIVES TO NEAR 50000
AT THIS POINT AKAGI HAS 47100

ICHI-KAWA!
THE UN-SHAKEABLE WALL...
FAIL TO GET HITS ON ICHIKAWA'S BASIC STYLE
AKAGI'S FLASHY WINNING METHODS
HE FAILS TO HIT THE DE-FENSIVE ICHIKAWA
AKAGI TRIES MANY HELL AND VARIABLE WAITS
BUT HE ISN'T COMING CLOSE
HE HAS TO RE-DUCE ICHI-KAWA'S POINTS


AKAGI PERSIST-ENTLY AIMS AT ICHI-KAWA
RIICHI
HELL WAIT ON PEI
ICHI-KAWA DOES NOT PAY
THE ROU-ND ENDS
BUT THIS ALSO FAILS
LET'S STOP IT
THIS ...
.....
...I'M BEAT
HMPH

ICHI-KAWA-SAN
WON'T STOP
OUR STOCKS OF POINTS
HAS BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT ACCU-MULATING...
I WISH TO CUT THE BACKBONE OF BOTH OUR POINTS
...
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
ZAWA...
WE'LL CUT IT BY TEN
THE 50K:100K WE HOLD RIGHT NOW WILL BE REDUCED RIGHT DOWN TO 5K:10K
EH?
ざわ..

I THOUGHT WE WERE SAFE...
...THAT PAINSTAKINGLY ACCUMULATED 50000 POINTS
ざわ…ざわ…
...
ZAWA... ZAWA...
YOU CAN'T BRING ICHIKAWA'S MILLION POINTS DOWN TO ZERO
IT'S NEAR IMPOSSIBLE
THIS MAY BE INTERESTING
NO...
WHY'RE YOU RISKING IT AGAIN ...
I REFUSE!
THAT SORT OF SINK-OR-SWIM GAMBLE MAY NOT BE BAD
THE QUESTION IS IF ICHIKAWA ACCEPTS

ざわ…
ざわ…
ZAWA... ZAWA...
I REMAIN FIRM IN THE LONG RUN
I MAY LOSE OUT IN THE SHORT TERM BUT
I WILL NOT LOWER MY CHANCE OF WINNING BY EVEN 1%
EVEN IF YOU HAD A MILLION POINTS LIKE ME OR MORE, I WOULD REFUSE
FORCE IT OUT ...
SINCE WORDS WON'T WORK
YOU WON'T LISTEN TO ME, GEEZER ...
I'LL HAVE TO...
FUFU ...
IT CAN'T BE HELP-ED

TO FORCE THE RATIONAL ICHIKAWA TO CUT DOWN TO A TENTH...
A PLAN ...
THIS IMP IS PLOTTING SOMETHING AGAIN
FOR-CE IT OUT?
AKAGI REN CHAN DEALER
9TH TURN
AS USUAL, THE FLOW IS GOOD

AKAGI

TENPAI

AKAGI CHOOSES THE 6 AND 9 MAN WAIT

11TH TURN

WELL, HE CAN'T DO ANY-THING ELSE

IT'S ORD-INARY ...

OR THE 6 AND 9 MAN ...?

HELL WAIT ON THE NAN, WITH TWO TILES OUT

TWO OPT-IONS

THE NAN WAIT IS USELESS ...

HAVE PROVEN INEFF-ECTIVE

BUT HELL WAITS

IT'S A CLEAR CUT FOR HON ITSU

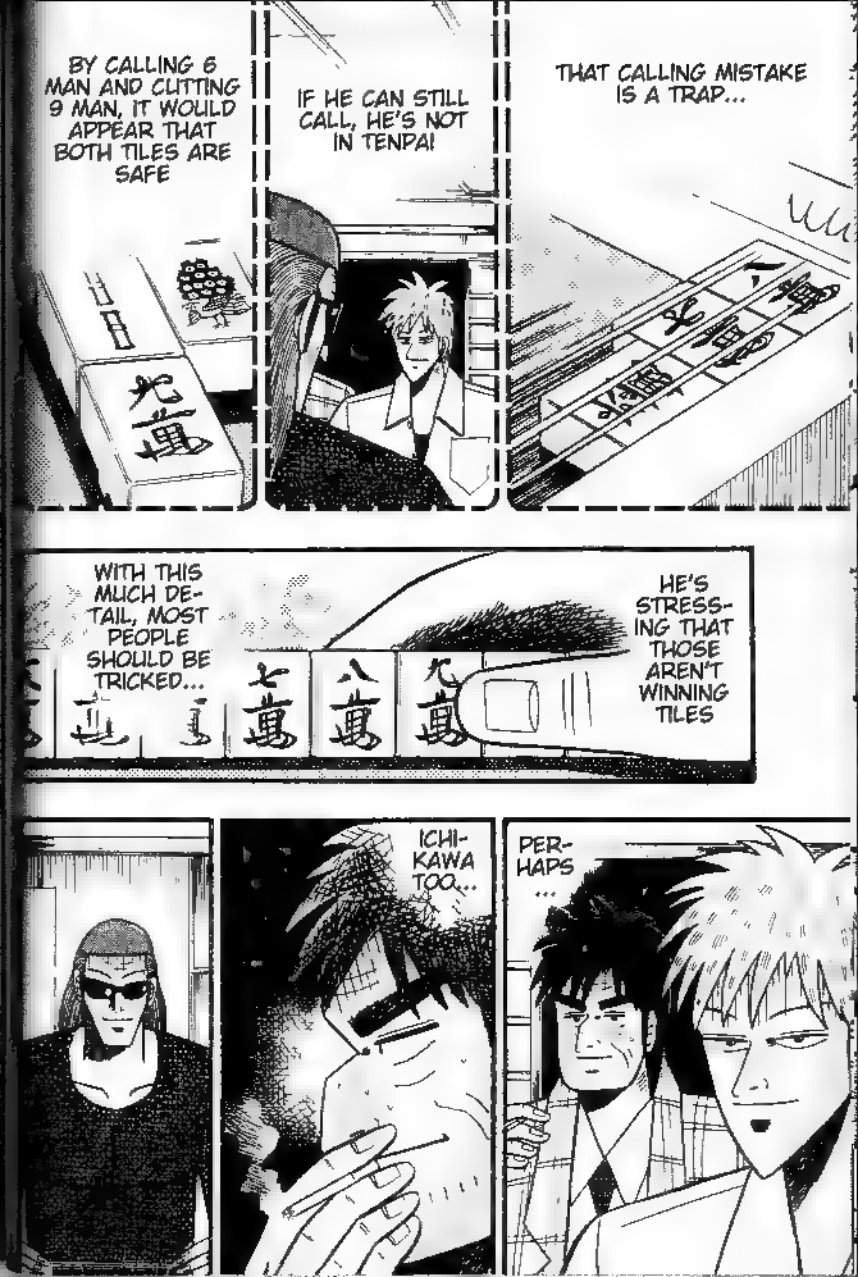
...

RIICHI
HOW ABOUT IT?
SHOULD YOU CHASE HIM?
THAT ...
AKAGI'S HAND
ON THE 12TH TURN, THE KAMICHA CUTS A 6 MAN
HE'S AIMING FOR A TSUMO
AKAGI DOES NOT CHASE

AKAGI'S WINNING TILE!
HE MOVES!
CHI!
AKAGI DOES NOT CLAIM IT
BUT ...
EH?

HE CUTS THE 9 MAN FOR THE 6 MAN
A FURI TEN CHANGE
ZAWA... ZAWA...
IT MARKS THE START OF AKAGI'S KILLING OF ICHIKAWA
ざわ・・・
...
AT FIRST IT SEEMS POINTLESS BUT
AKAGI UNEXP-ECTEDLY OBEYS
HMPH
TAKE IT BACK
CALLING 6 MAN AND CUTTING 9 MAN, WE DON'T ALLOW THAT SWITCHING
THAT'S NOT ALLOWED
WAIT, YOU
EH?

AND THE 7 AND 8 MAN ARE RETURNED TO HIS HAND
THE CUT 9 MAN
AND THEN HE DRAWS
THE 6 MAN GOES BACK TO THE KAMI CHA'S POOL
...
AND CUTS IT
AKAGI'S AIM!
I SEE IT
THAT'S IT!
...


BY CALLING 6 MAN AND CUTTING 9 MAN, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT BOTH TILES ARE SAFE
IF HE CAN STILL CALL, HE'S NOT IN TENPAI
THAT CALLING MISTAKE IS A TRAP...
WITH THIS MUCH DETAIL, MOST PEOPLE SHOULD BE TRICKED...
HE'S STRESSING THAT THOSE AREN'T WINNING TILES
ICHIKAWA TOO...
PERHAPS...

WRONG!
ICHIKAWA KNEW...

ICHIKAWA'S HAND

...

KU KU ...

KU KU KU ...

THE FLOW IS WITH HIM...

I HAVE TO BE DEF-ENSIVE

AKAGI

ICHIKAWA

THE SAFEST TILE IS ...

THE FOURTH XIA...

THIS IS 100% SAFE

THE XIA ...

IS UP TO NO GOOD

THIS EVIL LITTLE FIEND

FUFU ...

IT'S THE MOST DANGER-OUS TILE

IN THIS CASE ...

I CAN'T CUT THIS 9 MAN

IT'S BEEN USED FOR AGES

THAT TRICK'S ANCIENT

THAT'S THE ONE, OLD MAN!

EH?

I-IS IT REALLY A XIA?

Y...

YES ...

ZAWA... ZAWA...

...

...

THAT WAS THE FOURTH XIA

IM-POS-SIBLE ...

THAT DEF-INITELY WAS...

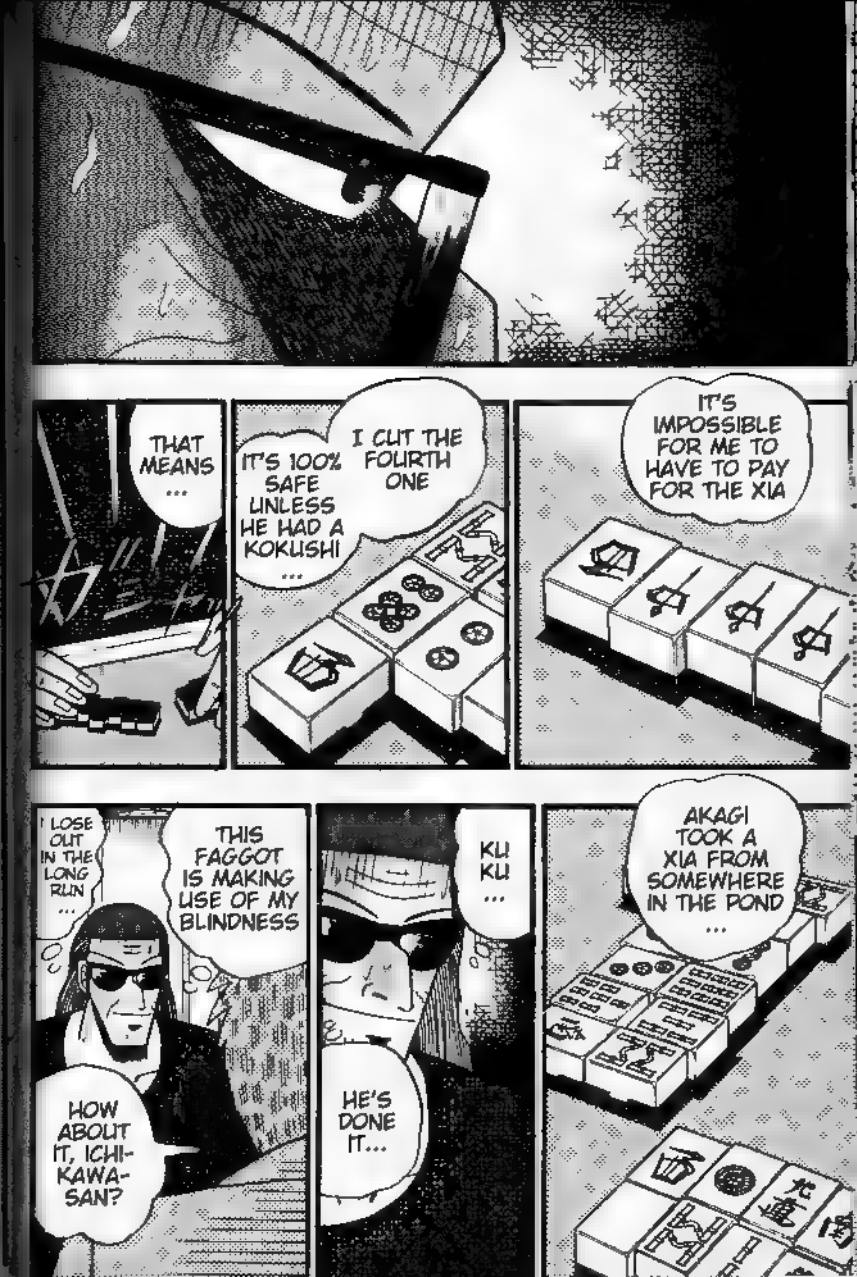
I DON'T KNOW DESPITE WATCHING FROM BEHIND...
W... WHY...
...
IT WAS 6 AND 9 MAN JUST NOW...
RETURNING THE CALLED TILE...
WHEN HE WAS
HE TOOK IT!
...
THE KAMI CHA'S 6TH TURN'S XIA HAS BEEN SWITCHED WITH THE 9 MAN!

THIS BRAT ...
IF HE USES THIS AS A PATH OF ESCAPE, WHO CAN TELL HOW THE MATCH WILL CHANGE?
HE'S USING ICHIKAWA'S BLINDNESS
CONFIRMING THE CUT TILE WOULD TAKE A LOT OF EFFORT
IS UP TO ABSURD THINGS AGAIN!
THE "FORCING IT OUT" ...
KU KU ...
HOW ABOUT IT, ICHI-KAWA-SAN...

THE ENDLESS BATTLE OR THE 1/10TH SHORT FIGHT
WHICH DO YOU ACCEPT?
...
...
WHAT A VILLAIN!
AT THIS POINT, IF HE SAYS NO,
HE'LL JUST KEEP ON...
A BORN GENIUS!
AKAGI'S NATURE IS CERTAINLY EVIL!
HE'S THE GREATEST EVIL AMONG ALL VILLAINS!

CHAPTER 24: LIVE TILE

第24話 生牌


THAT MEANS ...
IT'S 100% SAFE UNLESS HE HAD A KOKUSHI ...
I CUT THE FOURTH ONE
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO HAVE TO PAY FOR THE XIA
I LOSE OUT IN THE LONG RUN ...
THIS FAGGOT IS MAKING USE OF MY BLINDNESS
HOW ABOUT IT, ICHI-KAWA-SAN?
KU KU ...
HE'S DONE IT...
AKAGI TOOK A XIA FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE POND ...

FINE...
THE ENDLESS BATTLE OR THE 1/10TH SHORT FIGHT
WHICH DO YOU ACCEPT?
ICHI-KAWA-SAN...
ICHI-KAWA ...
I'LL TAKE IT...
...
THAT'S IT...
I UNDER-STAND, ICHIKAWA-SAN...
KU KU ...

ZAWA ZA

...

AND NOW THIS SINK-OR-SWIM ...

I'D THOUGHT THAT WE'D FINALLY REACHED SAFETY

THE CHANCES OF WIN-NING OR LOSING ARE HIGH ...

BOTH HAVE CUT TO ABOUT 10K POINTS

THE ONE WHO GAINS IS MORE LIKELY AKAGI

BUT...

THAT'S ...

-WA...

AND ICHI-KAWA'S 81700 TO 8700

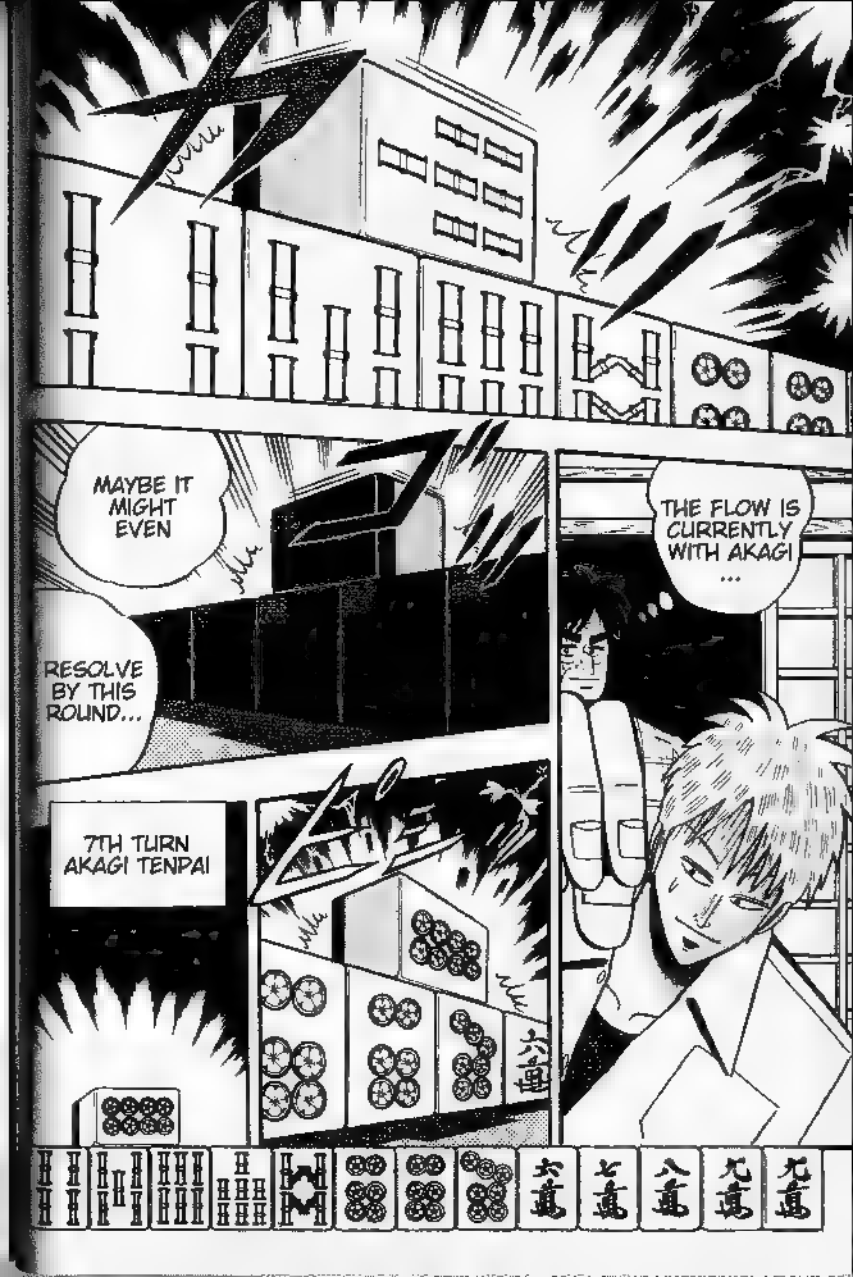
AKAGI'S 55700 TO 5500

BOTH PLAYERS REBATTLE WITH 1/10TH OF THEIR POINTS...

ZAWA...

IT CAN GO EITHER WAY...

...WHAT IS GOING TO BECOME OF IT...

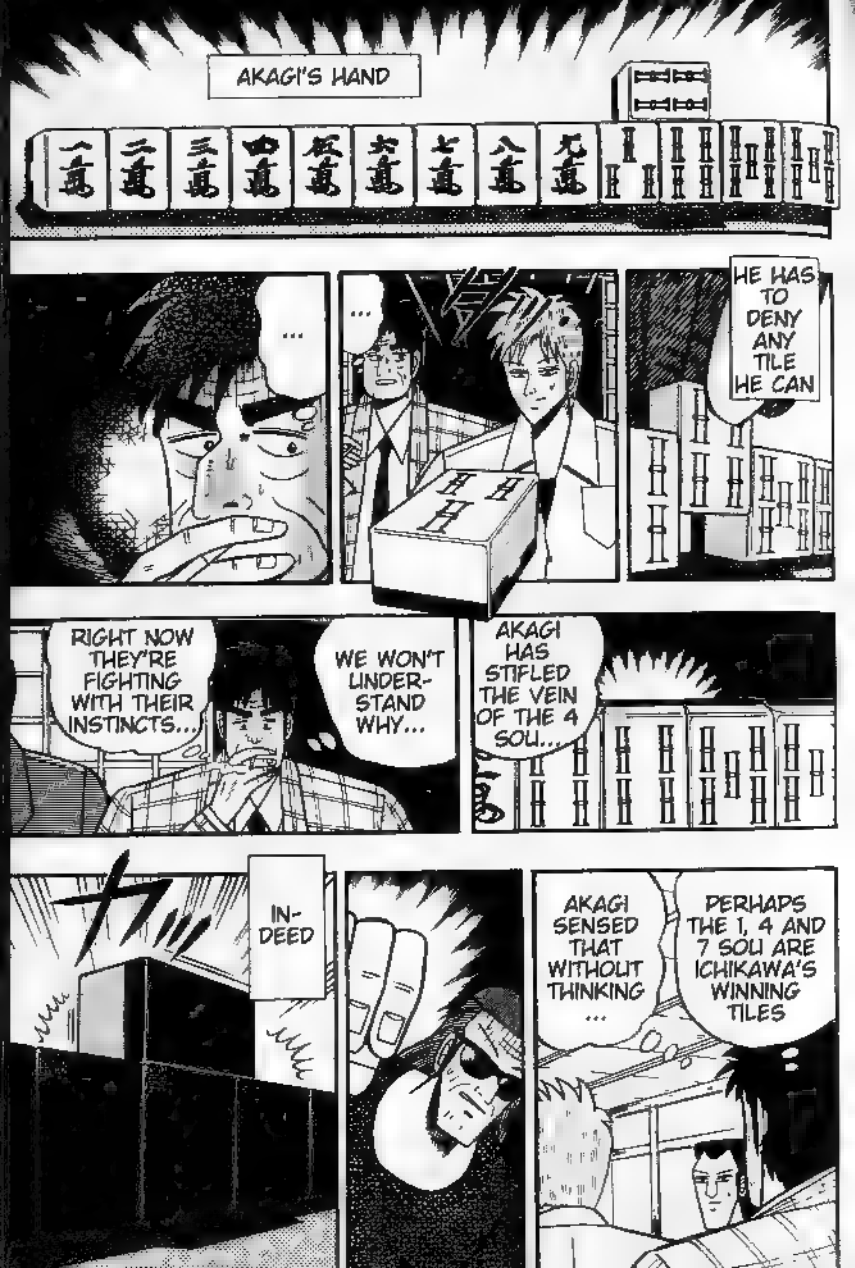

MAYBE IT MIGHT EVEN
RESOLVE BY THIS ROUND...
THE FLOW IS CURRENTLY WITH AKAGI ...
7TH TURN
AKAGI TENPAI

RIICHI!
LUCKY ...
ざわ
ZAWA...
...
A GOOD HAND AMONG HANDS ...
A DORA WOULD MAKE IT A DEALER HANEMAN
IF HE BOOSTS IT WITH A TSUMO
六萬
七萬
八萬
九萬
九萬
THAT WAS DENIED ...
ゴ...
HOW-EVER
IF HE GETS IT, WE WIN!

AS EXPECTED OF ICHIKAWA
RON
RO-
HE TURNED TO THE KAMI CHA
WHILE AKAGI LOSES HIS RIICHI TO 4500
ICHIKAWA IS 4600
BOTH EXHAUST EACH OTHER
TO STOP AKAGI FROM ENDING IT HERE
THAT WITH THE 3RD REN CHAN'S 900 MAKES IT 3500
HE HAD TO MAKE A SACRIFICE
...
THE BATTLE ABRUPTLY ENDS

NOW BOTH HAVE CUT TO 5000
NEXT ROUND
JUST A 5200 HAND WOULD END IT
ATT-ACKS!
AT THIS VERY LAST ROUND, AKAGI
HE CAN'T YIELD!
HE DOE-SN'T YIELD

FOR THE WIN!
RUSH-ING..
BUT ICHIKAWA IS ALSO
NEITHER CAN YIELD IN ORDER TO WIN
AT THIS STAGE
BUT NEITHER CAN NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO
BOTH ARE TRYING TO GRASP THE FLOW
ICHIKAWA'S YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
VS AKAGI'S TALENT


AKAGI'S HAND
...
...
HE HAS TO DENY ANY TILE HE CAN
RIGHT NOW THEY'RE FIGHTING WITH THEIR INSTINCTS...
WE WON'T UNDER-STAND WHY...
AKAGI HAS STIFLED THE VEIN OF THE 4 SOU...
IN-DEED
AKAGI SENSED THAT WITHOUT THINKING ...
PERHAPS THE 1, 4 AND 7 SOU ARE ICHIKAWA'S WINNING TILES

ICHIKAWA - 4 AND 7 SOU WAIT!

...

DOESN'T MATTER!

THE HATSU IS A LIVE TILE...

AKAGI'S SOUZI TILES WERE NEAR HIS

THE REST WERE ALL SUP-PORT

ICHIKAWA HAD ALSO READ HIM

ZAWA...

KAN ...?

HUH?

...

KAN!

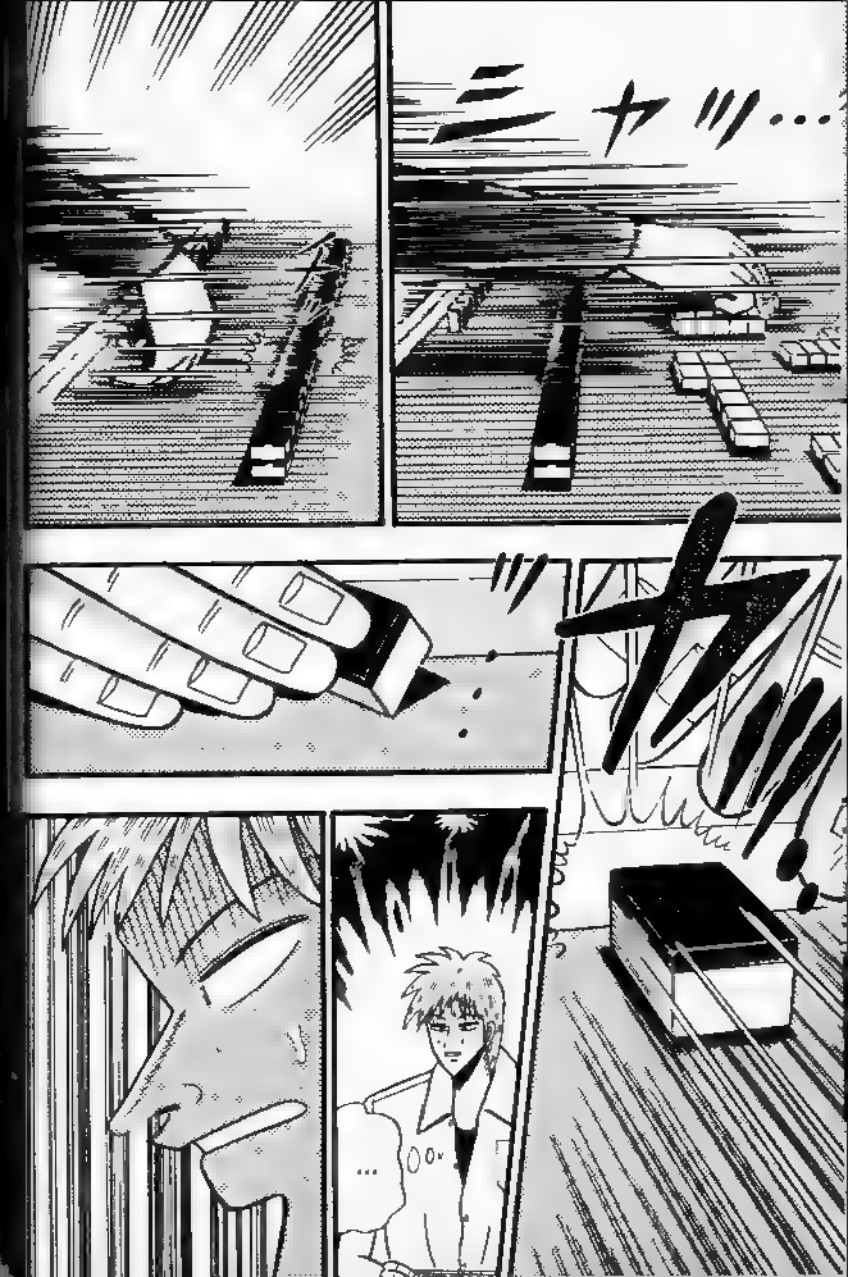
WILL HAVE TO RELY ON TSUMOS ...

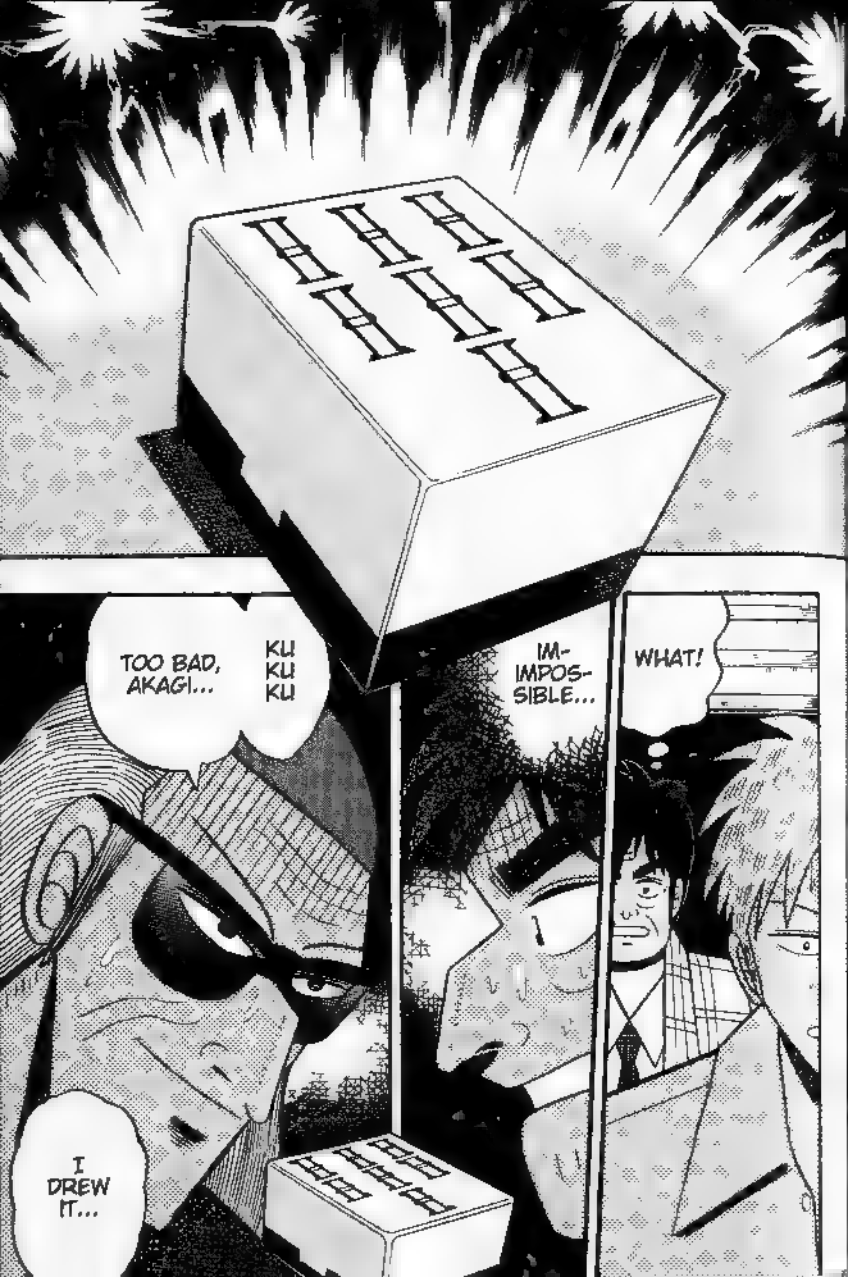
WHO-EVER WINS

AT ANY RATE THERE WAS NO SIGN OF DANGER

ハイ・ハイ・
カニイ
スッ
...
AKAGI ...
SO THAT YOU CAN'T ARGUE WHEN YOU DIE
I'LL HIT THE NAIL IN...
IF I MAKE A RINSHAN KAIHOU TSUMO NOW
YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOULDER EVERYTHING FOR THE LIVE TILE
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT...

BUT THAT KIND OF THING IS...
IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAIMIN KAN
KU KU ...
IS THAT TRUE?
ざわ..
YEAH ...
IT SEL-DOM HAP-PENS
YEAH ...
DAIMIN KAN: YOU ALREADY HAVE 3 AND SOMEONE CUTS THE 4TH
ZAWA...
THERE'S STILL THAT LITTLE BIT OF CHANCE...
STILL ...
I'M TELLING YOU JUST IN CASE!


ミャ〃…
〃
ド
…


WHAT!
IM-
IMPOS-
SIBLE...
KU
KU
KU
TOO BAD,
AKAGI...
I
DREW
IT...

HATSU, RIN SHAN KAI HOU, 3200!

KU ...

SO YOU'LL DIE...

YOU HAVE 4500 LEFT

...

...YASU-OKA-SAN ...

UGH ...

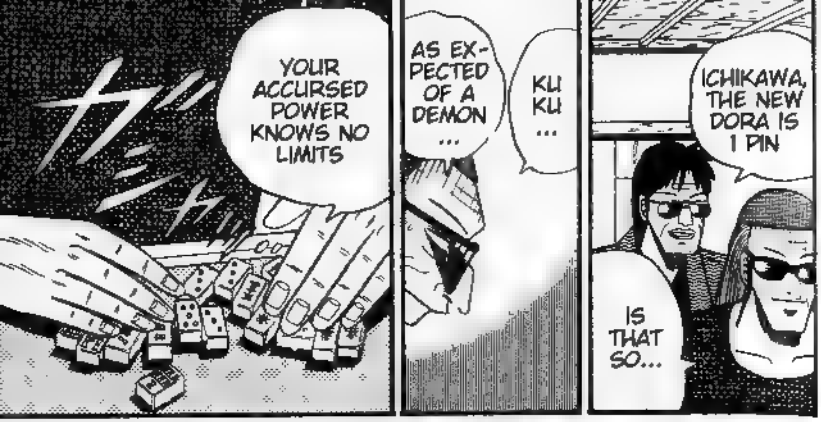
...

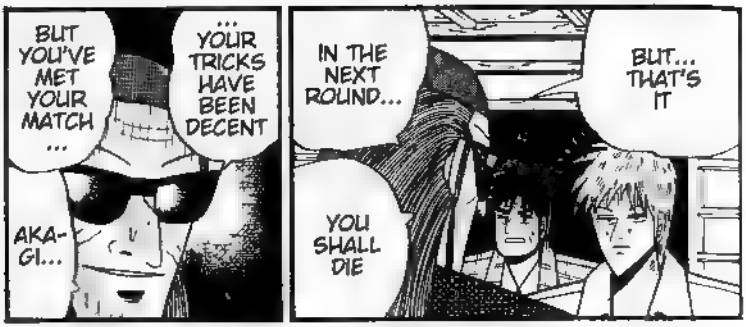
AKAGI ...

FLIP A NEW DORA INDICATOR

IF I GET ONE DORA IT'S 6400

NO DORA ADDED!
THE NEW DORA IS 1 PIN!
LUC-KY...
HAA...
WHEW ...
...
THERE WON'T BE A FUTURE...
BY NOT BEING IN TENPAI NEXT TIME
WE WILL REALLY GO DOWN ...
AKAGI HAS ONLY 1300 LEFT
HOW-EVER ...
..AT ANY RATE, WE MAY HAVE SURVIVED


YOUR ACCURSED POWER KNOWS NO LIMITS
AS EXPECTED OF A DEMON ...
KU KU ...
ICHIKAWA, THE NEW DORA IS 1 PIN
IS THAT SO...

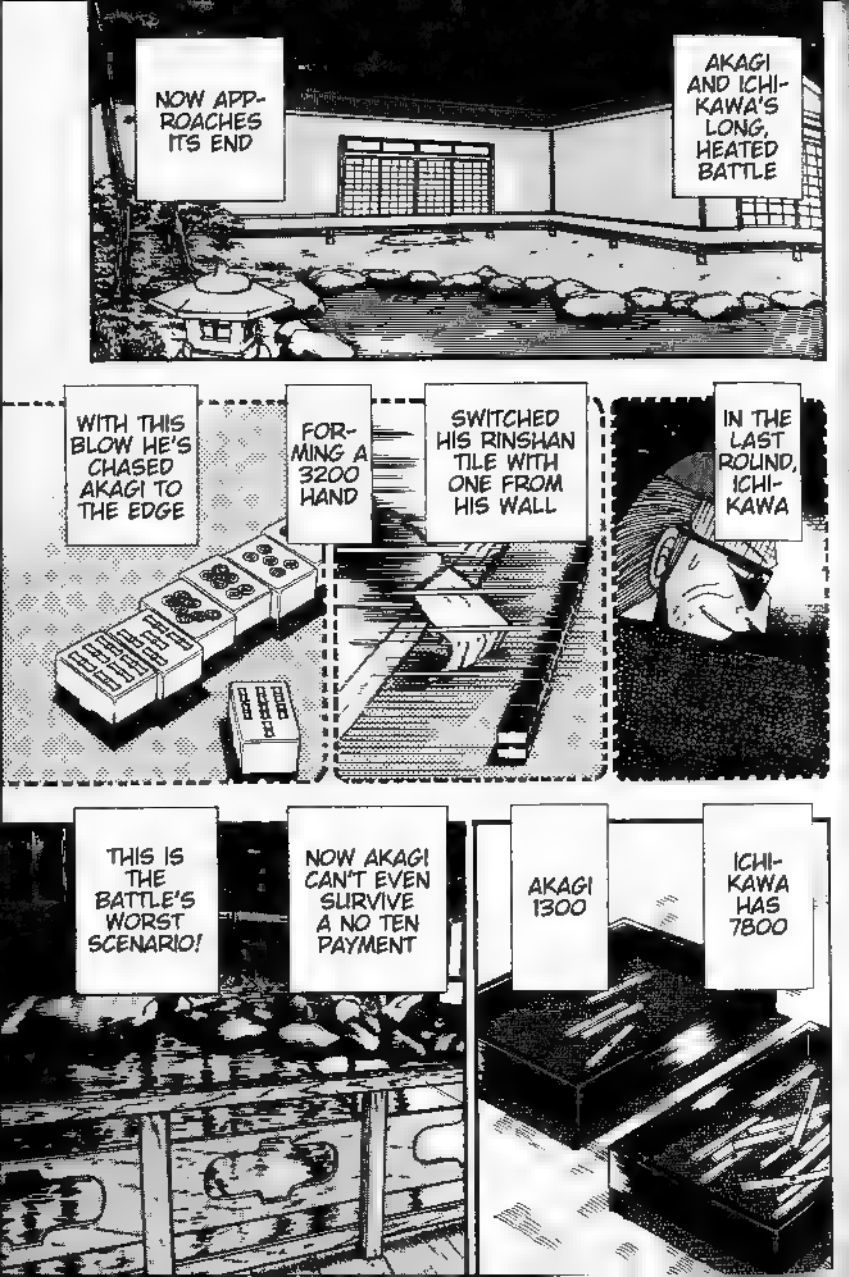

BUT YOU'VE MET YOUR MATCH ...
... YOUR TRICKS HAVE BEEN DECENT
AKA-GI...
IN THE NEXT ROUND...
BUT... THAT'S IT
YOU SHALL DIE

WHAT'S GOING ON?
ZAWA...
ざわ..
?
EH?

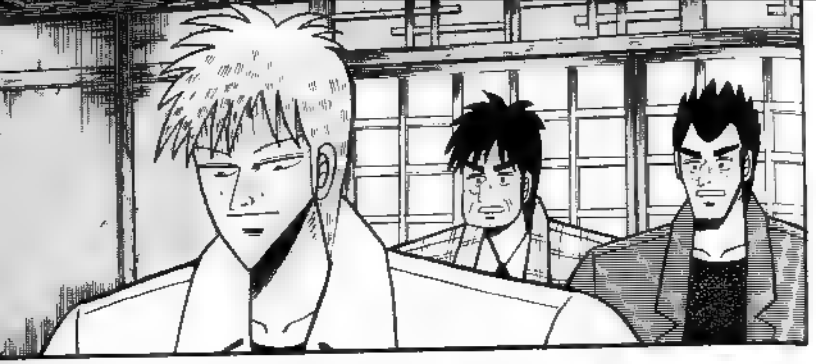
ざわざわ…
ZAWA... ZAWA...
KU KU ...
THAT LOOK
...
AKAGI KNOWS ...
HE SAW ICHI-KAWA SWITCH
THE RIN-SHAN TILE
WITH ONE FROM HIS OWN WALL

THEY CAN FREELY HAVE A ONE SHOT TSUMO
COMBINED WITH THE SLIDING TRICK...
CAN MEMORISE THE TILES ON THE WALL THEY MADE
PEOPLE OF ICHI-KAWA'S CLASS
THIS TRICK IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RESTRICT OR STOP
AND TO TOP OFF
BECAUSE ...
THERE'RE 18 TILES READY TO CHOOSE FROM
THUS BETWEEN THE DRAWN TILE AND THE 17 WALL TILES
UNSTOP-PABLE!
ICHIKAWA WILL NOW RETURN BACK TO YOU
THE TRICK THAT DUG YOU FROM YOUR GRAVE
YOU GAVE US AN EXCUSE TO CHEAT...
NOW ICHI-KAWA GRABS THEM
AKAGI STOLE THE WINNING TILES LAST TIME...
TO SUPPORT OUR SHORT-TERM BATTLE
ICHI-KAWA'S HAND IS NEXT TO THE WALL
DUR-ING THE SWITCH
NO ONE CAN GRAB IT

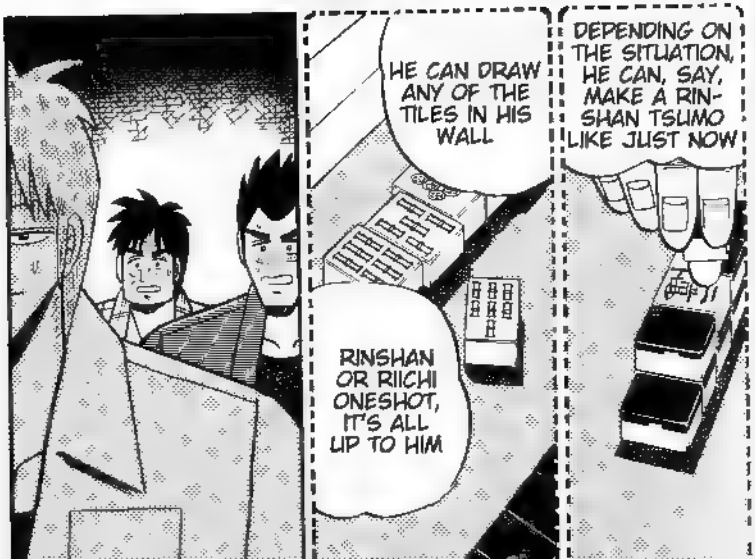
ICHIKAWA'S WALL STAYS INTACT
IF DURING NEXT ROUND'S ARRANG-EMENT
AKAGI WILL DIE!
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING
SINCE YOU'D NEEDED TO DO THAT
THAT ICHIKAWA FAR SUR-PASSES AKAGI!
THIS TIME, SURELY, WITH NO ROOM FOR MERCY
DIE!


NOW APP-
ROACHES
ITS END
AKAGI
AND ICHI-
KAWA'S
LONG,
HEATED
BATTLE
WITH THIS
BLOW HE'S
CHASED
AKAGI TO
THE EDGE
FOR-
MING A
3200
HAND
SWITCHED
HIS RINSHAN
TILE WITH
ONE FROM
HIS WALL
IN THE
LAST
ROUND,
ICHI-
KAWA
THIS IS
THE
BATTLE'S
WORST
SCENARIO!
NOW AKAGI
CAN'T EVEN
SURVIVE
A NO TEN
PAYMENT
AKAGI
1300
ICHI-
KAWA
HAS
7800

CHAPTER 25: PURSUIT
第25話猛追



EVERY-THING ON HIS WALL
ICHIKAWA CAN IDEN-TIFY
YES ...
CHEAT-ING?


HE CAN DRAW ANY OF THE TILES IN HIS WALL
DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION, HE CAN, SAY, MAKE A RIN-SHAN TSUMO LIKE JUST NOW
RINSHAN OR RIICHI ONESHOT, IT'S ALL UP TO HIM

CAN YOU WIN?
D-DOING THAT KIND OF THING ...
ざわ ざわ
ZAWA ZAWA...
KU KU ...
4TH TURN ...?
HE CAN WIN BY THE 4TH TURN!
IF WE CAN BREAK ICHIKAWA'S WALL
PERHAPS ...DURING NEXT ROUND'S DICE ROLL
THAT MAN WILL NOT BE RELENT-LESS IN THIS LAST MATCH
IT DEPENDS

AT THAT POINT, IT MEANS THE HEAVENS HAVE CHOSEN THEM
IT'LL BE A REVE-LATION
T-THAT'S ...
AKAGI ...!
KU KU ...
HOW-EVER
PERHAPS... IF ICHIKAWA DOESN'T HAVE A WALL... IF IT'S ONLY TWO OR THREE...
IF HE CAN'T SWAP HIS TILES
...
THE TIDES WILL TURN...
I BELIEVE IT'LL REVERSE TO MY SIDE
THE HEAVENS ...
WILL CHOOSE ME...

I WILL WIN!

...

AND HIS WALL WILL REMAIN ...

THE TILES WILL START FROM ICHIKAWA'S KAMI CHA

THE WORST THING TO HAPPEN IS IF HE GETS A TWO...

HIS FATE LIES IN HIS HANDS

WILL ROLL A SECOND TIME

ZAWA...

THIS'S BECOME RIDICULOUS

FIRST ICHIKAWA THROWS A SEVEN

チャ..

THEN THE OPPOSITE, AKAGI,

OUR LIVES DEPEND ON A DIE ROLL

WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING

ざわ...

...

SHIMO CHA!
HIS SHIMO CHA IS IDEAL
IF IT'S POSSI-BLE
ICHIKAWA'S WALL WILL BE COMPLE-TELY BROKEN
コロコロ
UG...
TWO IS THE WORST !!
コラ...

ICHI-
KAWA!
THREE!
THREE IS IDEAL
THANK GOOD-NESS
WE CAN WIN ...
... YES
IF WE GET A STRONG HAND HERE...
AKAGI STLL HAS SOME LUCK
SO
ICHIKAWA HAS ONLY THREE LEFT IN FRONT OF HIM
WITH ONE BEING THE DORA INDI-CATOR, HE CAN ONLY SWITCH UP TO TWO TILES

AKAGI'S HAND!

WE HAVE TO FINISH IT THIS ROUND

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT ICHIKAWA'S WALL WILL BE BROKEN NEXT ROUND

WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING

STILL, WITH THIS HAND ...

THIS IS THE WORST HAND

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THAT...

HOW DO YOU MAKE ICHIKAWA PAY FOR IT

HOW DO YOU TURN THIS INTO A MANGAN HAND?

HOW CAN YOU CAMOU-FLAGE IT?

BUT ...

ON THE OTHER SIDE, ICHIKAWA'S HAND!

IF MY WALL IS INTACT NEXT ROUND, I CAN FINISH THIS IN AN INSTANT

I CAN'T BE HASTY

I NEED TO TIDE OVER THIS ROUND

4TH TURN

IT IS CRUCIAL THAT I DON'T HAVE TO PAY FOR HIS HAND

EVEN IF AKAGI "WINS" HERE, HE WON'T WIN

TO DESTROY MY DOMINANCE HE'LL HAVE TO KILL ME WITH A MANGAN DIRECT HIT ON MY 7800

I WANTED A FASTER ONE

THIS ISN'T TOO GREAT A HAND...

I CAN'T DEDUCE WHAT AKAGI'S HAND IS

SO I CAN'T PLAY RECK-LESSLY HERE

...

THESE DORA AREN'T NEEDED

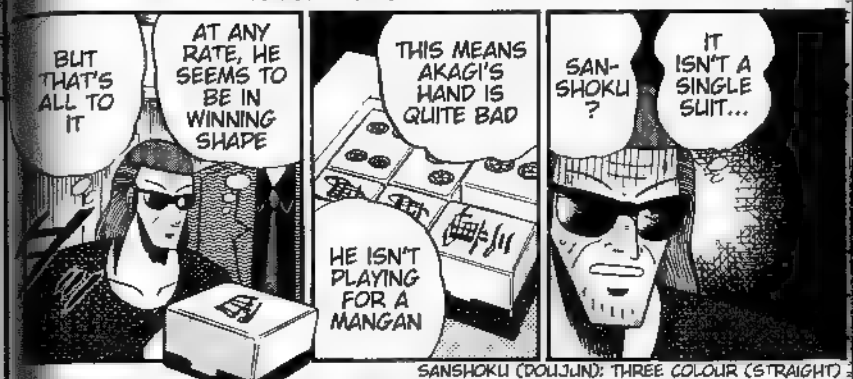
I ONLY HAVE TO TAKE 1300 FROM AKAGI

...

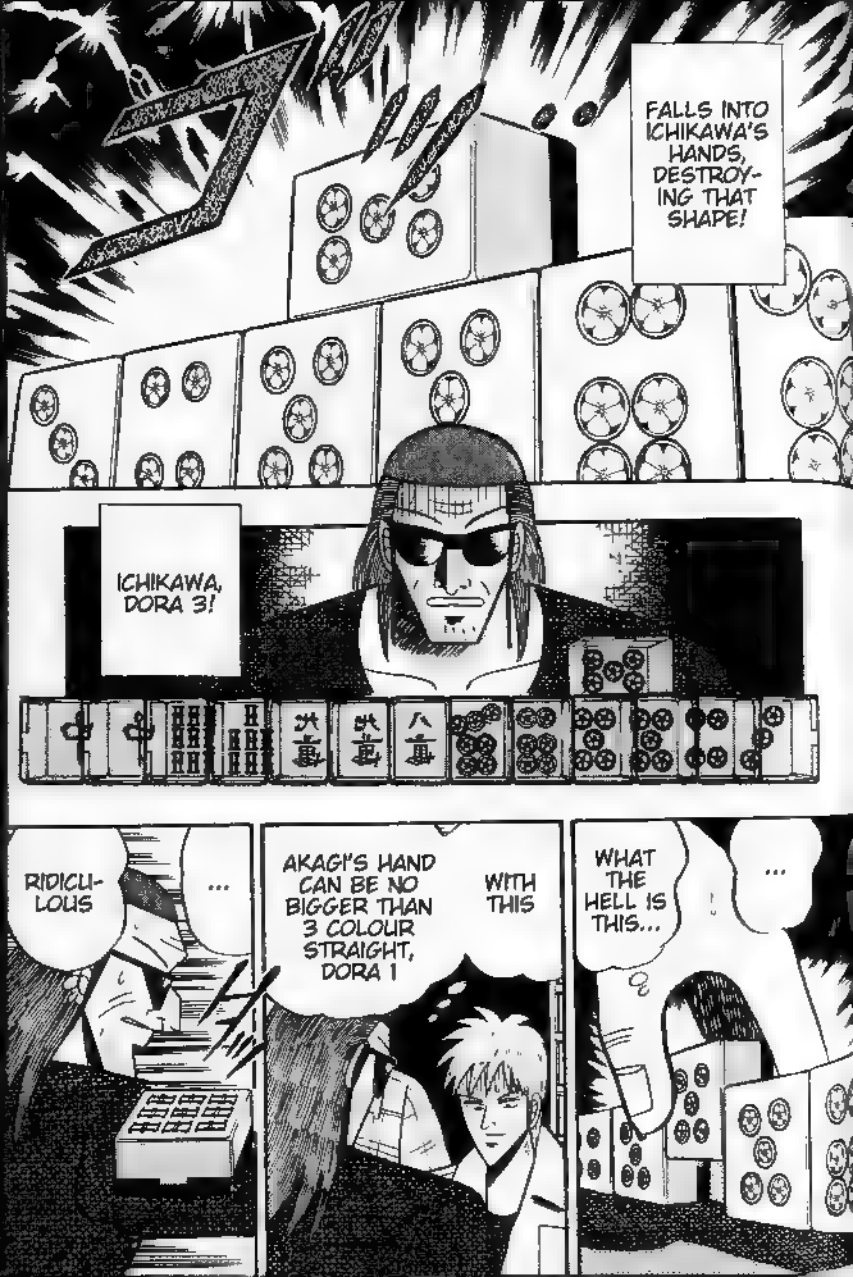
CHI!
THAT CALL ...
...
PINZI HON ITSU OR CHIN ITSU...
THAT'S HIS FOUND-ATION
AND ALSO ...
THE CLIT TILE ...

BECAUSE THEY CAN'T FORM BIG HANDS...
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF ANY TRICKS ANYWAY
I WON'T BE ABLE TO READ HIM 100%
OF COURSE, THAT CALL COULD BE A TRICK
AT LEAST I'VE GOT A GRIP OF HIS COLOUR
EH...?
CHI!
6TH TURN

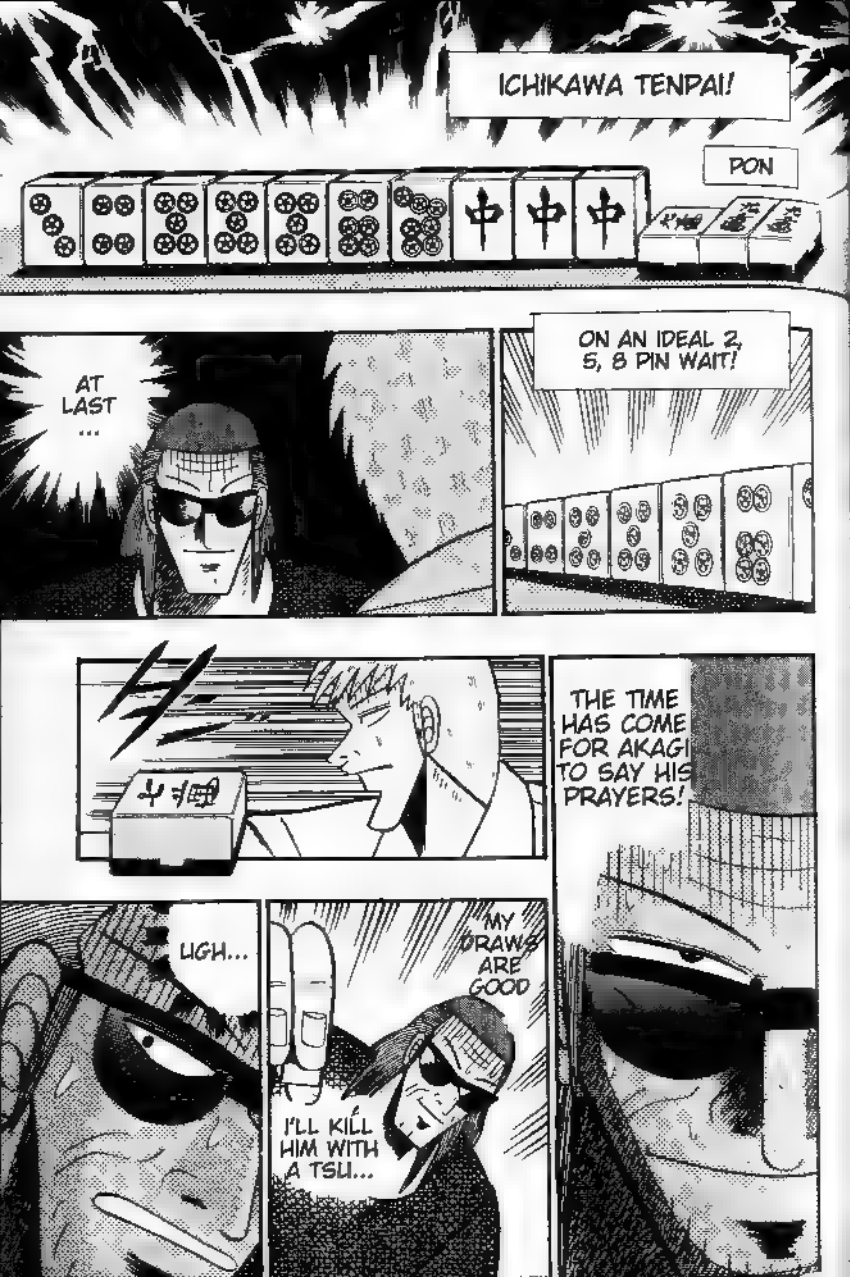
ZAWA... ZAWA...


BUT THAT'S ALL TO IT
AT ANY RATE, HE SEEMS TO BE IN WINNING SHAPE
THIS MEANS AKAGI'S HAND IS QUITE BAD
HE ISN'T PLAYING FOR A MANGAN
SAN-SHOKU ?
IT ISN'T A SINGLE SUIT...

SANSHOKU (DOUJUN): THREE COLOUR (STRAIGHT)

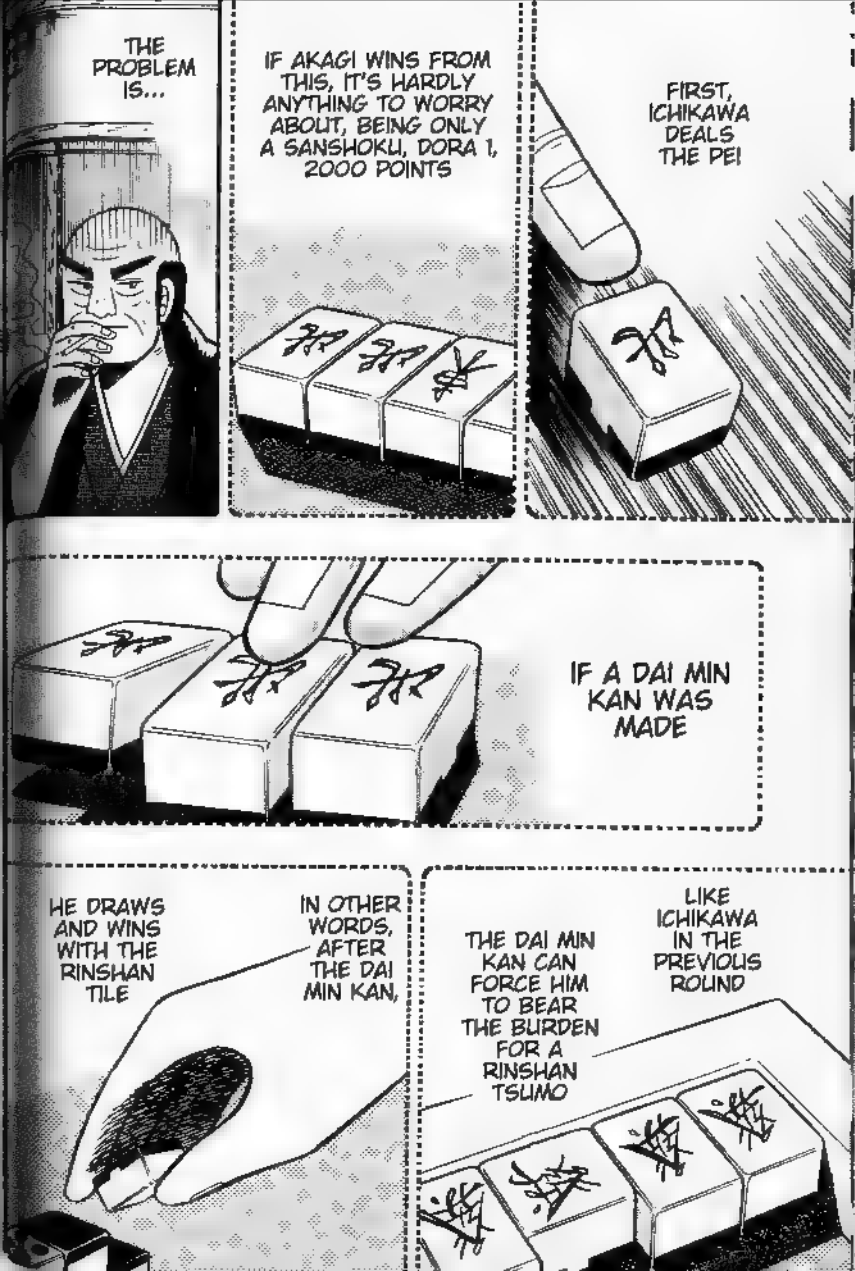

FALLS INTO ICHIKAWA'S HANDS, DESTROY-ING THAT SHAPE!
ICHIKAWA, DORA 3!
RIDICU-LOUS
...
AKAGI'S HAND CAN BE NO BIGGER THAN 3 COLOUR STRAIGHT, DORA 1
WITH THIS
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS...
...

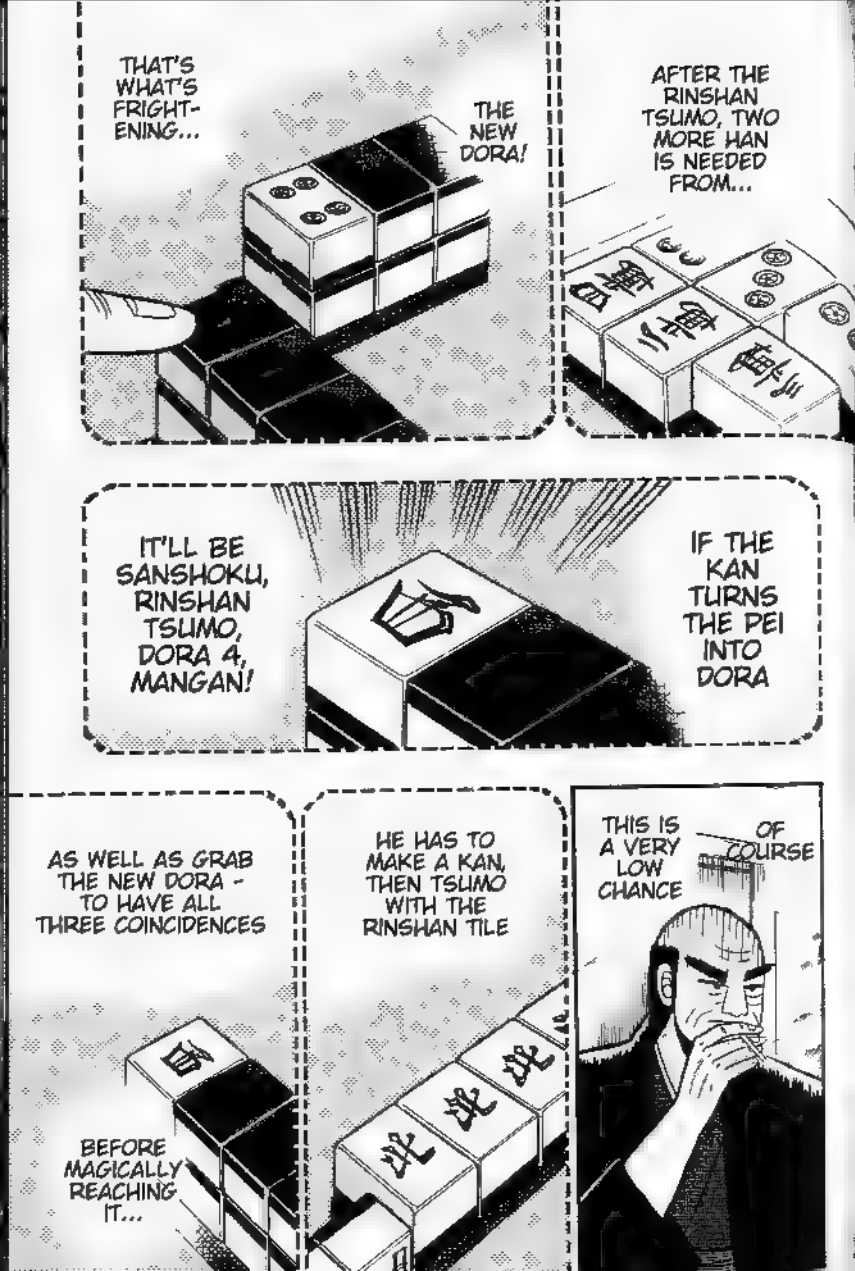
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT A MANGAN HAND
I THOUGHT HE'LL BE MORE AMBITIOUS
9 MAN
.....
I'LL ATTACK ...
I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR
NOW THAT I KNOW HE WON'T REACH THAT
PON!


ICHIKAWA TENPAI!
PON
AT LAST ...
ON AN IDEAL 2, 5, 8 PIN WAIT!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR AKAGI TO SAY HIS PRAYERS!
UGH...
MY DRAWS ARE GOOD
I'LL KILL HIM WITH A TSU...

A LIVE TILE, PEI!
ZAWA...
ざわ..
?
...
KU ...

...
THE PEI ISN'T ACTIVE
IT WON'T CHANGE AKAGI'S LIMIT OF SANSHOKU, DORA 1
EH?
WHAT IS HE THINK-ING...
THERE'S NOTHING TO CUTTING THAT PEI
THAT'S UNDER NORMAL CIRCUM-STANCES
BUT
ALL HE'LL PAY IS 2000...
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS PEI IS NO-THING TO FEAR
I SEE
...
HE'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR A MANGAN!
IF HE DEALS THE PEI AND THREE COINCIDENCES OVERLAP...


THE PROBLEM IS...
IF AKAGI WINS FROM THIS, IT'S HARDLY ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, BEING ONLY A SANSHOKU, DORA 1, 2000 POINTS
FIRST, ICHIKAWA DEALS THE PEI
IF A DAI MIN KAN WAS MADE
HE DRAWS AND WINS WITH THE RINSHAN TILE
IN OTHER WORDS, AFTER THE DAI MIN KAN,
THE DAI MIN KAN CAN FORCE HIM TO BEAR THE BURDEN FOR A RINSHAN TSUMO
LIKE ICHIKAWA IN THE PREVIOUS ROUND


THAT'S WHAT'S FRIGHT-ENING...
THE NEW DORA!
AFTER THE RINSHAN TSUMO, TWO MORE HAN IS NEEDED FROM...
IT'LL BE SANSHOKU, RINSHAN TSUMO, DORA 4, MANGAN!
IF THE KAN TURNS THE PEI INTO DORA
AS WELL AS GRAB THE NEW DORA - TO HAVE ALL THREE COINCIDENCES
HE HAS TO MAKE A KAN, THEN TSUMO WITH THE RINSHAN TILE
THIS IS A VERY LOW CHANCE
OF COURSE
BEFORE MAGICALLY REACHING IT...

HE CAN'T DO IT BE-CAUSE ...
...
BUT ICHI-KAWA IS AFRAID
THE PEI WOULD BE CUT WITHOUT HESIT-ATION
NORMALLY, IT'S UNTHINKABLE FOR THESE 3 COINCIDENCES TO HAPPEN
OF AKAGI SHIGERU!
HE CAN'T DO IT BECAUSE ...

CHAPTER 26: VICTORY
第26話勝利

ざわ・・・ざわ・・・

ICHIKAWA VS. AKAGI

ZAWA... ZA

AND IN THIS ROUND HAS THE FLOW WITH HIM

ICHIKAWA CAN SWITCH TILES WITH THOSE IN HIS OWN WALL

ON THE OTHER HAND, AKAGI IS GOING FOR ONLY A THREE COLOUR STRAIGHT

BUT ...

NO ONE COULD SEE HOW TO BUDGE HIM OFF THE THRONE

ICHI-KAWA WAS STRO-NGER

AKAGI WAS IN TROU-BLE...

WA...

ICHIKAWA HAS 7800, WHILE AKAGI HAS 1300

THE RULES ARE THAT WHOEVER PAYS ALL HIS POINTS LOSES

IS CO-MING FULL CIRCLE

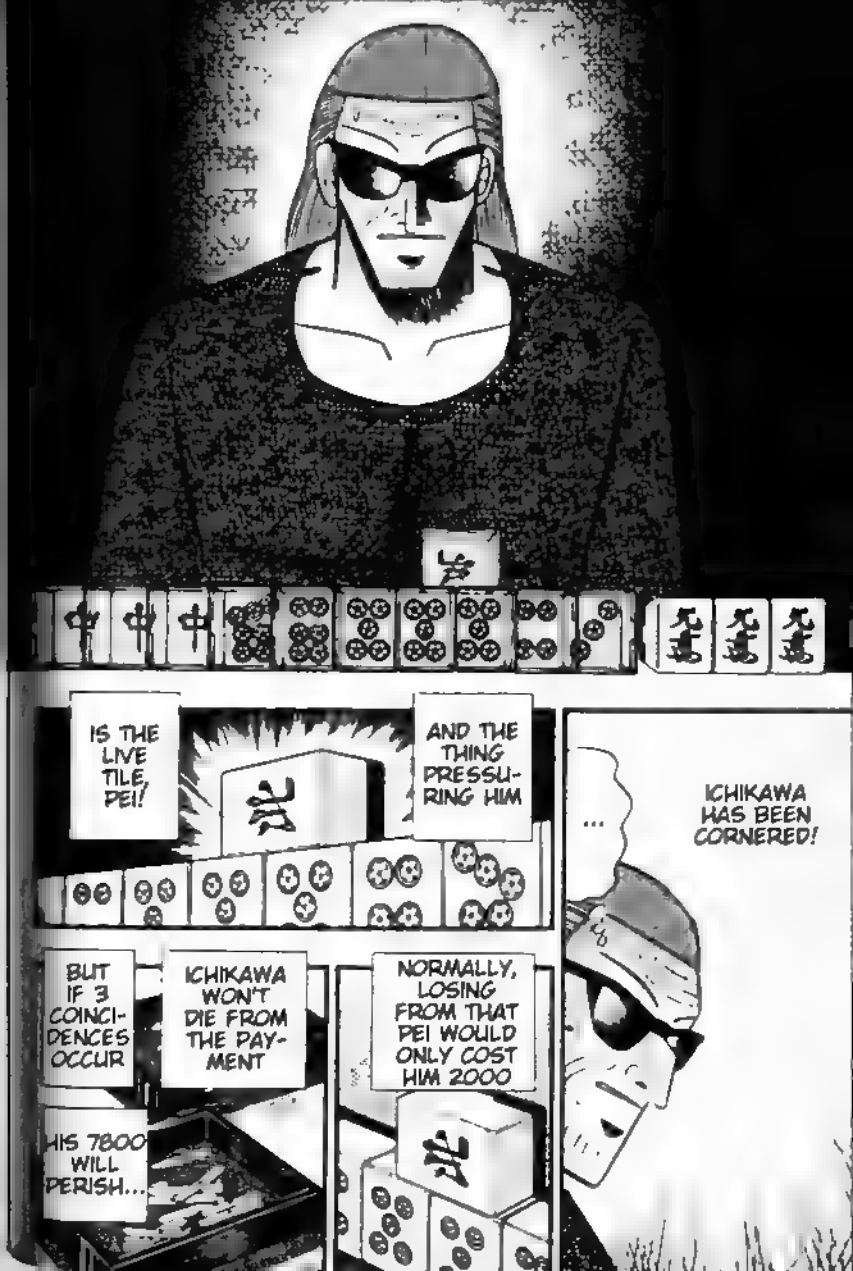
THE TWO'S FIERCE FIGHT

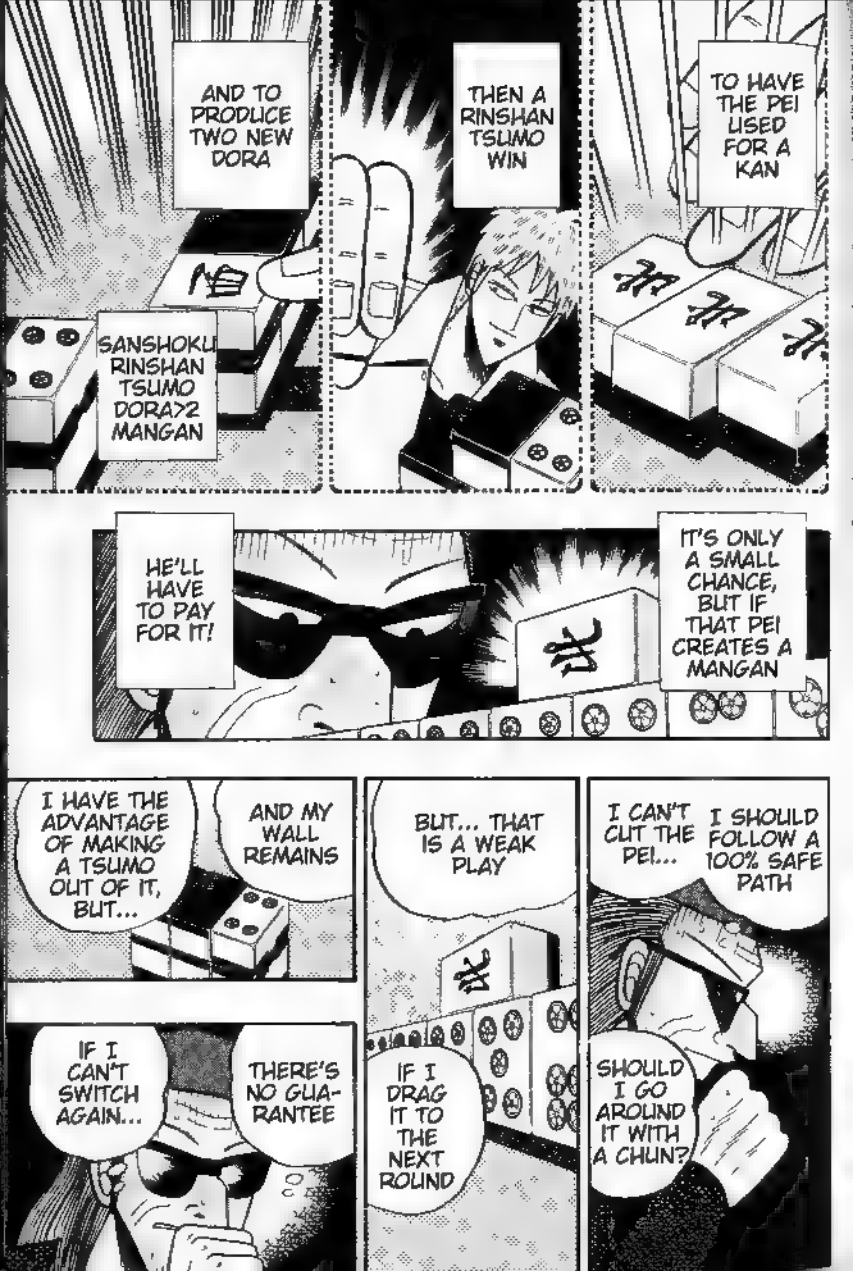
CHUN, DORA 3... WITH THIS HAND AKAGI WILL DIE WITH A TSUMO

IN THIS ROUND ICHIKAWA GAINED AN IDEAL TENPAI BY THE TENTH TURN

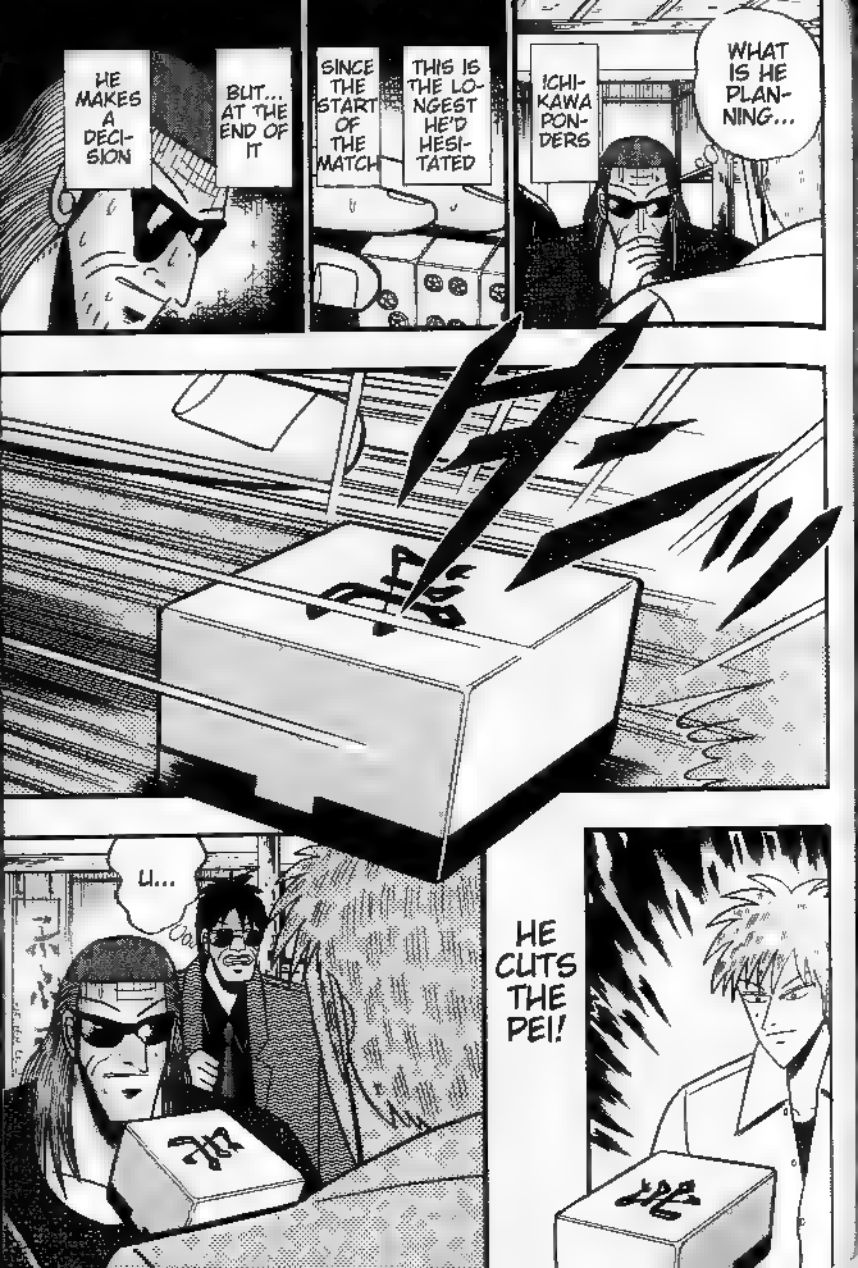
IT'S A SU-DDEN DEATH SITUA-TION...

ポン

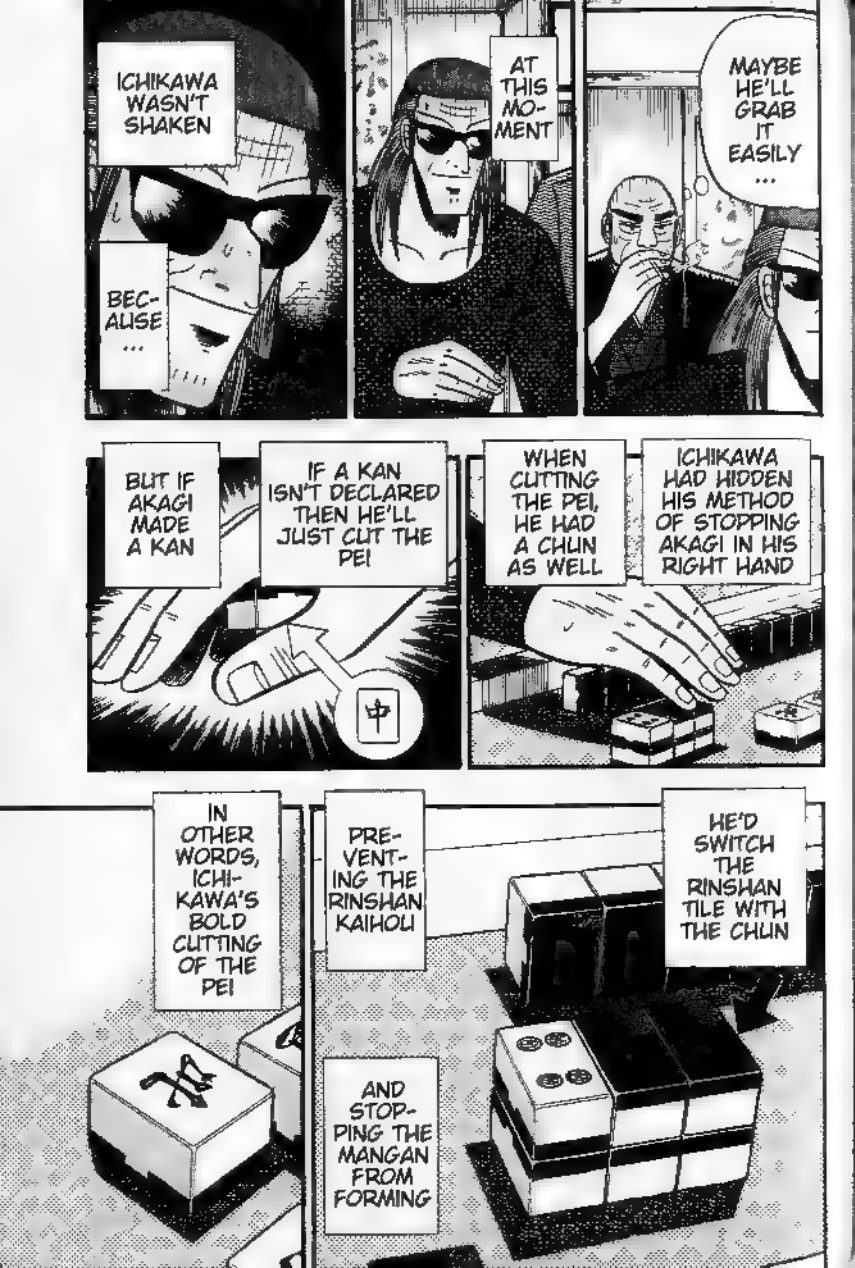

IS THE LIVE TILE, PEI!
AND THE THING PRESSURING HIM
ICHIKAWA HAS BEEN CORNERED!
...
BUT IF 3 COINCIDENCES OCCUR
ICHIKAWA WON'T DIE FROM THE PAYMENT
NORMALLY, LOSING FROM THAT PEI WOULD ONLY COST HIM 2000
HIS 7800 WILL PERISH...

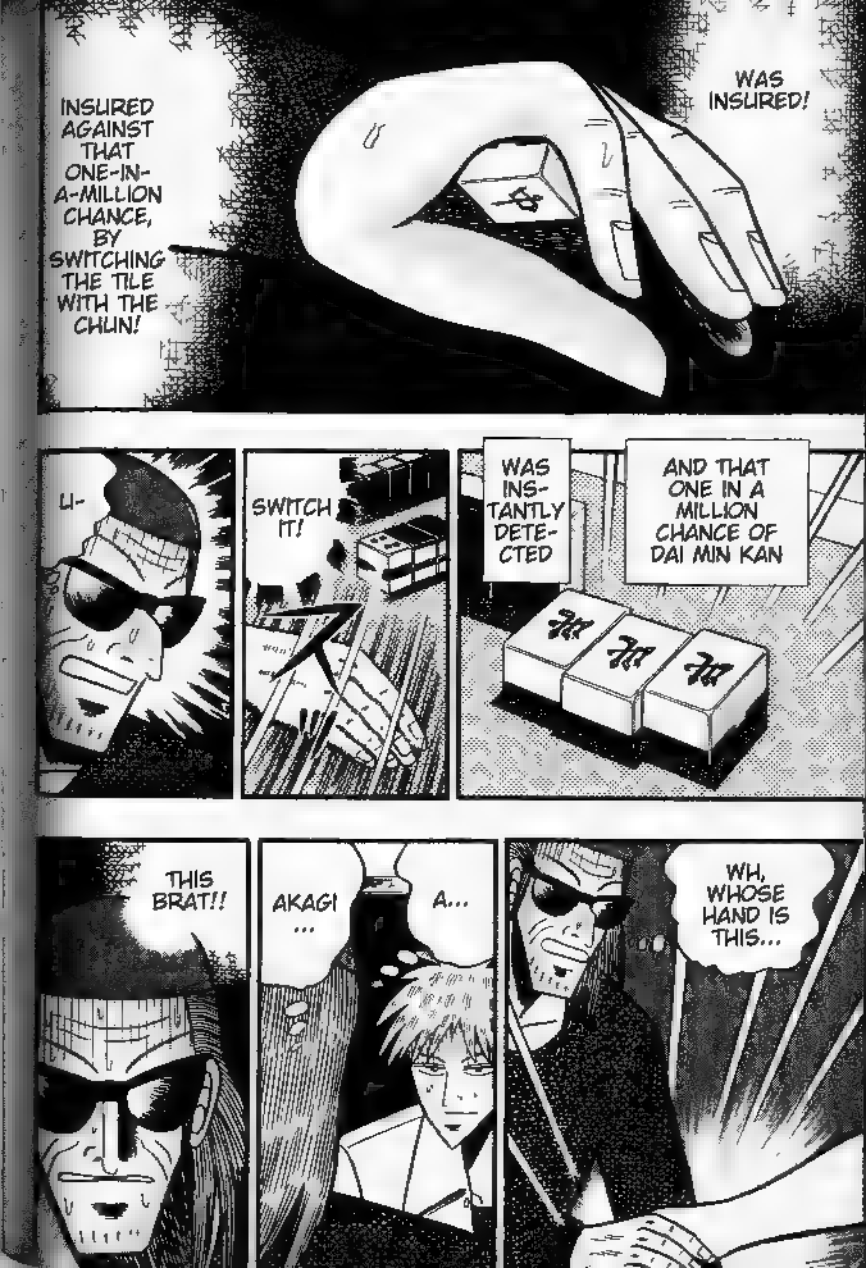

AND TO PRODUCE TWO NEW DORA
THEN A RINSHAN TSUMO WIN
TO HAVE THE PEI USED FOR A KAN
SANSHOKU RINSHAN TSUMO DORA>2 MANGAN
HE'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR IT!
IT'S ONLY A SMALL CHANCE, BUT IF THAT PEI CREATES A MANGAN
I HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF MAKING A TSUMO OUT OF IT, BUT...
AND MY WALL REMAINS
BUT... THAT IS A WEAK PLAY
I CAN'T CUT THE PEI...
I SHOULD FOLLOW A 100% SAFE PATH
IF I CAN'T SWITCH AGAIN...
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE
IF I DRAG IT TO THE NEXT ROUND
SHOULD I GO AROUND IT WITH A CHUN?

IN THE NEXT ROUND, AKAGI
CAN EASILY FORM A MANGAN OR HANEMAN
THEN I CAN'T SETTLE THE MATCH YET AGAIN
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
...
...IF I REASON IT OUT LOGICALLY ...
REASON IT OUT ...
AND I HOLD AN IDEAL HAND WITH DORA 3
THIS IS REALLY STRONG
I WOULDN'T BE WORRIED ABOUT SUCH A THING
NORMALLY, A DAIMIN KAN, RINSHAN TSUMO AND NEW DORA
EXCEEDS
THIS KID...
BUT ...

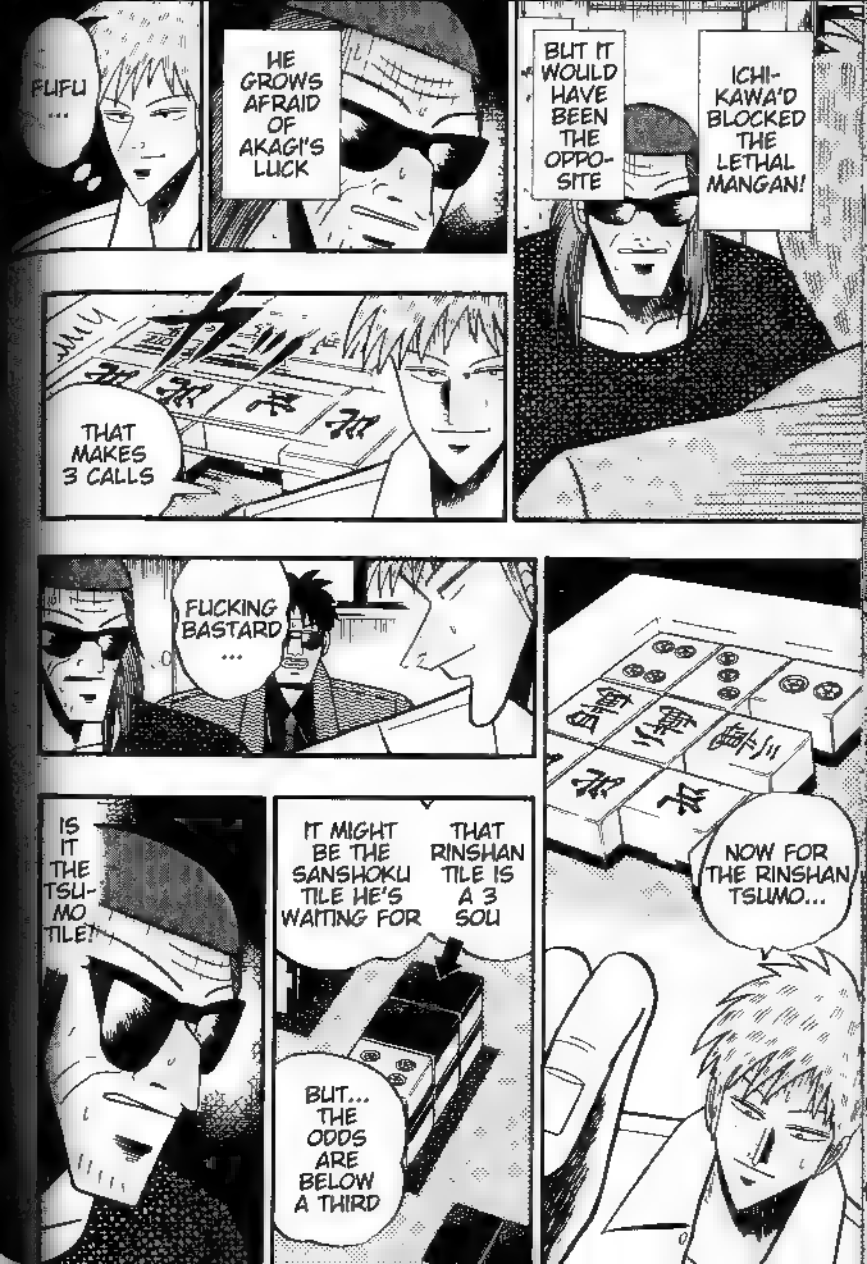

WHAT IS HE PLANNING...
ICHIKAWA PONDERS
THIS IS THE LONGEST HE'D HESITATED
SINCE THE START OF THE MATCH
BUT... AT THE END OF IT
HE MAKES A DECISION
HE CUTS THE PEI!
U...

KAN!
HERE IT COMES!
BUT IF IT'S AKAGI, MAYBE ...
THIS IS LITMOST DIFFI-CULT
THE NEXT IS THE RIN SHAN TSUMO!
HE GOT THE DAI MIN KAN...
AKAGI HAS UNLOCKED THE FIRST DOOR TOWARDS THAT MANGAN


ICHIKAWA WASN'T SHAKEN
BEC-AUSE ...
AT THIS MO-MENT
MAYBE HE'LL GRAB IT EASILY ...
BUT IF AKAGI MADE A KAN
IF A KAN ISN'T DECLARED THEN HE'LL JUST CUT THE PE!
WHEN CUTTING THE PE!, HE HAD A CHUN AS WELL
ICHIKAWA HAD HIDDEN HIS METHOD OF STOPPING AKAGI IN HIS RIGHT HAND
IN OTHER WORDS, ICHI-KAWA'S BOLD CUTTING OF THE PE!
PRE-VENT-ING THE RINSHAN KAIHOU
AND STOP-PING THE MANGAN FROM FORMING
HE'D SWITCH THE RINSHAN TILE WITH THE CHUN


INSURED AGAINST THAT ONE-IN-A-MILLION CHANCE, BY SWITCHING THE TILE WITH THE CHUN!
WAS INSURED!
U-
SWITCH IT!
WAS INSTANTLY DETECTED
AND THAT ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE OF DAI MIN KAN
THIS BRAT!!
AKAGI ...
A...
WH, WHOSE HAND IS THIS...

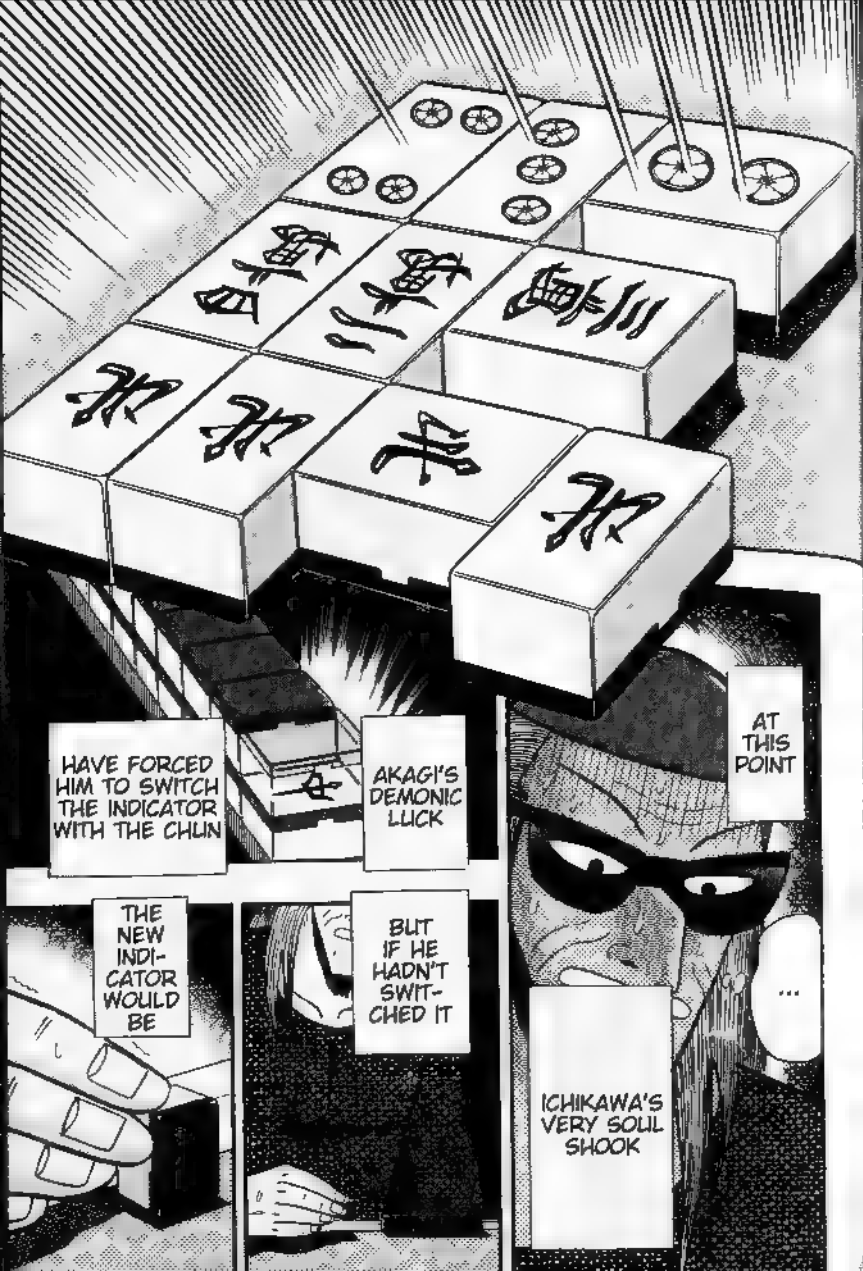
THE INSURANCE OF SWITCHING
HAD BEEN SEEN THROUGH
BUT ICHIKAWA INSTANTLY TAKES ANOTHER ROUTE
SO BE IT!
KU ...
THE HAND AKAGI EXTENDED FOR THE PEI STOPPED ICHIKAWA FROM SWITCHING
THAT MEANS HIS HAND DOESN'T HAVE HAKU
AKAGI HAD DISCARDED A HAKU!
WITHOUT DORA 2, AKAGI CAN'T FORM A MANGAN
HE'LL SWITCH THE INDICATOR IF NOT THE RINSHAN TILE
AKAGI CAN'T GET ANY DORA!
WITH THIS CHUN...

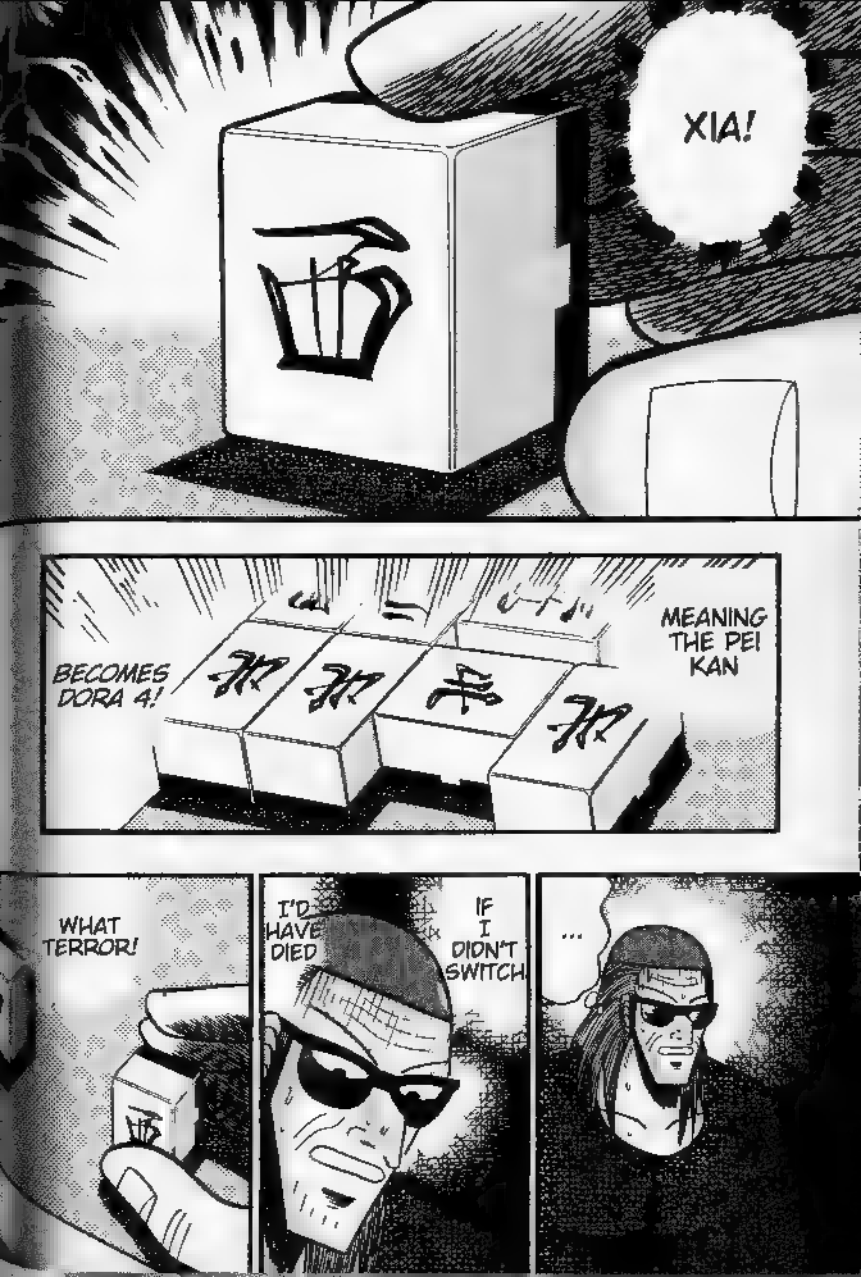

FUFU ...
HE GROWS AFRAID OF AKAGI'S LUCK
ICHI-KAWA'D BLOCKED THE LETHAL MANGAN!
BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE OPPO-SITE
THAT MAKES 3 CALLS
FUCKING BASTARD ...
NOW FOR THE RINSHAN TSUMO...
THAT RINSHAN TILE IS A 3 SOU
IT MIGHT BE THE SANSHOKU TILE HE'S WAITING FOR
BUT... THE ODDS ARE BELOW A THIRD
IS IT THE TSU-MO TILE!

IS IT THE TSUMO TILE!!

UG...
ZAWA...
CAN'T BE...?
IT...
さわ

IT CAN'T BE THE WINNING TILE!
GU...
...
ざわ
ざわ
ZAWA... ZAWA...
...
WHAT A TWIST
IF HE GETS TWO NEW DORA
SAN-SHOKU RINSHAN KAIHOU
MAN-GAN


AT THIS POINT
...
ICHIKAWA'S VERY SOUL SHOOK
BUT IF HE HADN'T SWIT-CHED IT
THE NEW INDI-CATOR WOULD BE
AKAGI'S DEMONIC LUCK
HAVE FORCED HIM TO SWITCH THE INDICATOR WITH THE CHUN


XIA!
MEANING THE PEI KAN
BECOMES DORA 4!
WHAT TERROR!
I'D HAVE DIED
IF I DIDN'T SWITCH
...

I CAN'T BE CARELESS AROUND THIS BRAT...
HIS LUCK SURPASSES HUMAN IMAGINATION
COULD IT BE... THAT HE REALLY IS POSSESSED
BY THE GODS
BUT...
I HAVE ENSURED MY WIN...
THE DEMON LUCK HAS BEEN STOPPED BY MY CHUN
HE WON'T HAVE ANY DORA
RINSHAN KAIHOU SANSHOKU
HIS HAND IS WORTH 2600
...
WE'LL SETTLE IT NEXT ROUND
I'LL HAVE TO PAY, BUT AT LEAST I WON'T DIE YET...
IT WAS A NARROW ESCAPE
THE NEW DORA ...
AH
YEAH ...

NEW DORA ...
EH?
THAT'S WEIRD
HAKU?
SO THE NEW DORA IS HAKU
CHUN ...
E... H...?
...?
FUFU ...
IT WON'T GO SO SMOOTH-LY!
W-WHAT THE FUCK!
I THOUGHT THAT GIVEN THE FLOW NOW, THE PEI WOULD DEFINITELY BECOME THE NEW DORA
IT'S THE SAME
BUT WELL
DON'T BE SO SHAME-LESS!

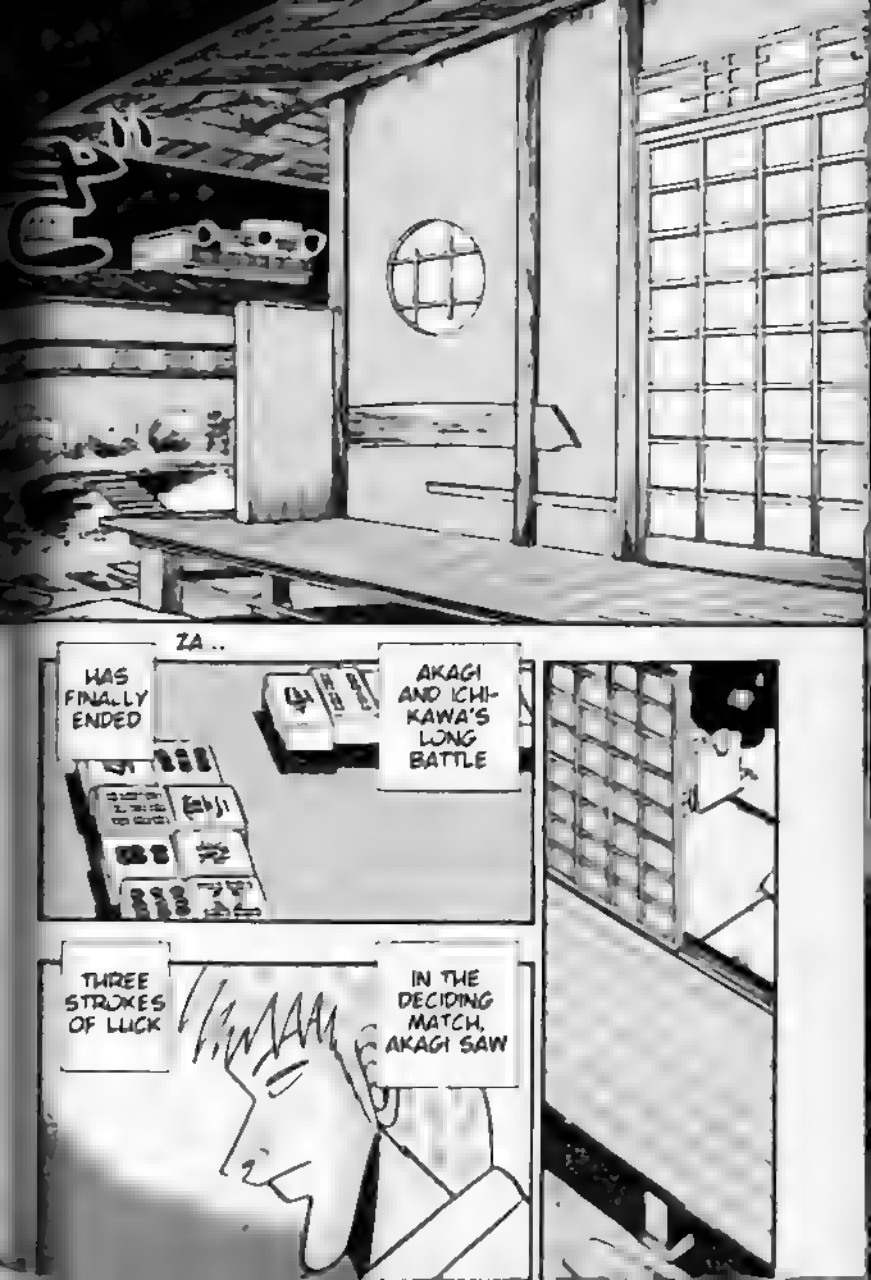
...?
?
DON'T TELL ME-
"IT'S THE SAME"

MAN-
GAN!
IT'S
SET-
TLED!
HAKU?
EH?
HAKU... THE
DORA FOR
THE HEAD!!
HAKU?
WE
WON!
WE
WOOOON!!

IT CAN'T BE!!
YOU THREW AWAY THAT CRITICAL HONOR TILE
THAT MEANS... YOU CUT THAT HAKU FROM AN AN KOU??
IT CAN'T BE
AN KOU: HIDDEN TRIPLET
IT'S WHAT MOST PEOPLE USE, BUT...
RATIONALITY IS A RULE IN YOUR WORLD
FUFU ...
SUCH IRRA-TIONALI-
WHY DO YOU HAVE HAKU FOR YOUR HEAD?
DOESN'T BIND ME ...
THAT CHAIN OF "RATION-ALITY"
TOO BAD, BECAUSE

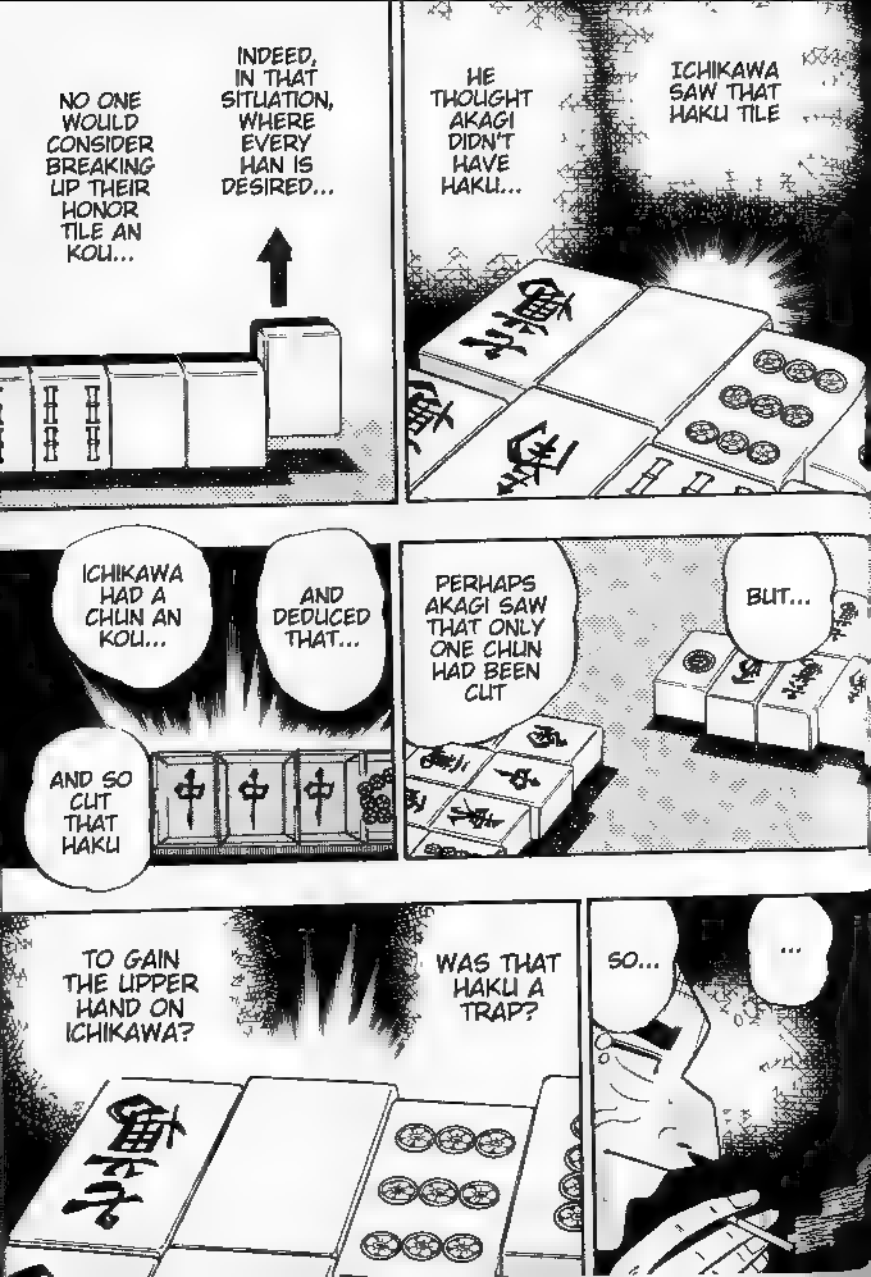
IRRATIONAL RISK...
THAT'S THE TRUE FOUNDATION OF GAMBLING
...
DEVOTING YOURSELF TO IRRATIONALITY
IS GAMBLING ...
THE THRILL OF GAMBLING

CHAPTER 27: INDIFFERENCE
第27話無欲


ZA ..
AKAGI AND ICHI-KAWA'S LONG BATTLE
HAS FINALLY ENDED
IN THE DECIDING MATCH, AKAGI SAW
THREE STROKES OF LUCK

ZA ZA
THE PEI KAN
THE RIN SHAN TSUMO
AND THE NEW DORA
WITH THIS AKAGI RAISED HIS HAND TO A MANGAN
AND OVER-TURNED ICHI-KAWA!

...
...
...
AKAGI CUT A HAKU SEVERAL TURNS BEFORE THE END
PURELY LUCK?
BUT ARE THE THREE STROKES OF LUCK


NO ONE WOULD CONSIDER BREAKING UP THEIR HONOR TILE AN KOU...
INDEED, IN THAT SITUATION, WHERE EVERY HAN IS DESIRED...
HE THOUGHT AKAGI DIDN'T HAVE HAKU...
ICHIKAWA SAW THAT HAKU TILE
ICHIKAWA HAD A CHUN AN KOU...
AND DEDUCED THAT...
AND SO CUT THAT HAKU
PERHAPS AKAGI SAW THAT ONLY ONE CHUN HAD BEEN CUT
BUT...
TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND ON ICHIKAWA?
WAS THAT HAKU A TRAP?
SO...
...

THAT'S SIMPLE LOGIC
ICHI-KAWA'D MOVE!
IF HE MADE A DAIMIN KAN FROM ICHIKAWA
HE WAS FORCED TO CHANGE THE DORA
WHEN AKAGI GUARDED HIS TILE
ICHI-KAWA'D SWITCH THE RINSHAN TILE
TO PREVENT THE MANGAN FROM FORMING
BUT...
HE BELIEVED THAT HE'D ESCAPED FROM IT
ICHI-KAWA DEDUCED FROM AKAGI'S CUT HAKU
THAT THIS WAS 100% SAFE
JUST AS HE THOUGHT, ICHIKAWA CHANGED THE NEW DORA INDICATOR WITH THE CHUN!

HE'D BEEN DANCING IN AKAGI'S PALM ALL THIS WHILE...
AKAGI KNEW IT ALL
BUT ...
IS PAYING FOR AKAGI'S TRAP
RIGHT NOW, ICHI-KAWA
...
TA-LENT ...
WASN'T ENTIRELY UP TO LUCK
AKAGI'S WIN
IT WAS ALSO TECHNI-QUE...
OVERWHELMING TALENT WHICH NO ONE HAS!

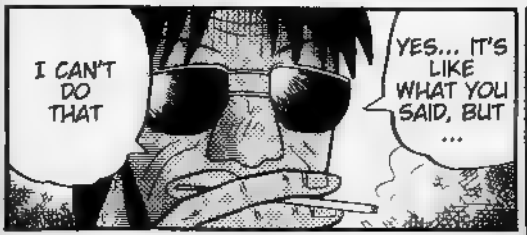
THE EIGHT MILLION
AKAGI...
...
...
TAKE IT

I'M DOUBLING UP!
I REFUSE IT
ス…
…
DON'T PUSH IT!
AKAGI!
O-OI
IS GOING TO CONTINUE UNTIL ONE OF US BREAKS
THIS MATCH
THAT'S WHAT GAMBLING IS
I HAVEN'T PLANNED ON STOPPING SINCE THE VERY BE-GINNING...
KNOW WHEN TO STOP!
YOU WON'T KEEP HAVING SUCH LUCK ...
Y-YEAH!

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KAWADA-SAN

ZAWA ZAWA...

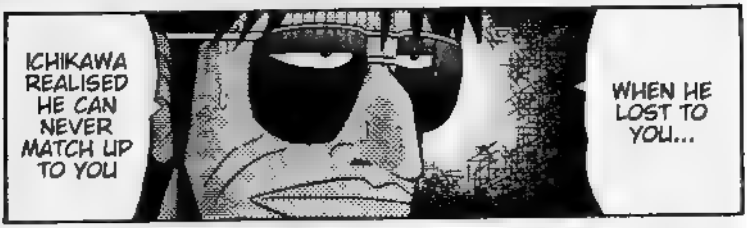
ざわ
ざわ

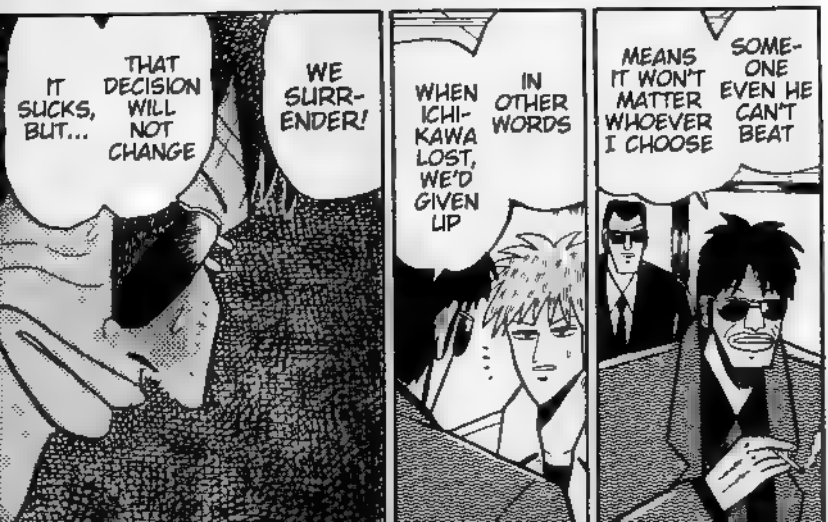

I CAN'T DO THAT
YES... IT'S LIKE WHAT YOU SAID, BUT ...

AKAGI ...

WE DON'T HAVE ANOTHER PLAYER...
WE DIDN'T EXPECT ICHIKAWA TO LOSE

...
HE CAN'T TAKE ANY-MORE
...
IT'LL BE AN EVEN MATCH
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?
ISN'T IT FINE IF I FIGHT WITH ICHIKAWA AGAIN...


ICHIKAWA REALISED HE CAN NEVER MATCH UP TO YOU
WHEN HE LOST TO YOU...


IT SUCKS, BUT...
THAT DECISION WILL NOT CHANGE
WE SURR-ENDER!
WHEN ICHI-KAWA LOST, WE'D GIVEN UP
IN OTHER WORDS
MEANS IT WON'T MATTER WHOEVER I CHOOSE
SOME-ONE EVEN HE CAN'T BEAT

ZAWA ZAWA
IT'S FINE, AKAGI
ざわ
ざわ
...
SO!
I CAN SET UP SUCH STAGES FOR YOU NEXT TIME
IF YOU WANT
ALL THE WAY UNTIL YOU ROT
THIS MUCH IS ENOUGH

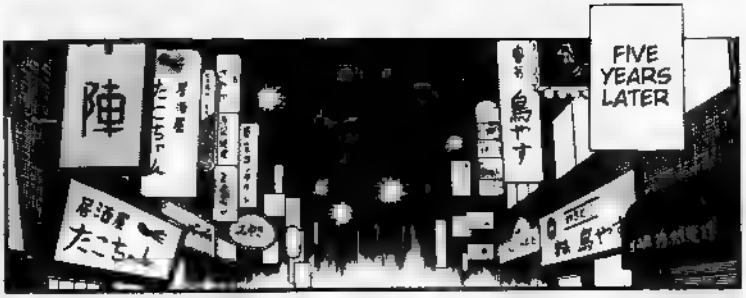
LET'S TAKE THIS
OOO!!
ANYWAY, NANGOU-SAN...
HA HA HA
HIII!
ZAWA ZAWA...
THE BATTLE HAD FINALLY ENDED
AND SO
ざわ ざわ...

THE TORTUROUS TENSION
ざわ..
ざわ..
HAD DISPERSED INTO THE AIR
ZAWA... ZAWA...
TALK ABOUT THE MATCH WAS STARTING
ABOUT THIS MIRACULOUS GAME
AND ABOUT AKAGI'S MANAGEMENT
AS FOR ME
MY INSIDES WERE HOT
IT WAS EMBARASSING, BUT I BEGAN CALCULATING HOW MUCH I'D WON
ERM...
AKAGI!
バサ

I REMEMBER IT TO THIS DAY
THE EXPRESSION ON AKAGI
IT'S TOO MUCH FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOLER THOUGH!
THAT'S YOUR SHARE
HA HA!
WHAT I SAW WAS...
YES ...
THE MADNESS THAT HE HAD JUST NOW WAS GONE
HIS EYES WERE PURE
DISINTERESTED LOOK
A KID'S

HE WAS NO LONGER A DEMON...
THAT AKAGI WAS A 13 YEAR OLD MIDDLE SCHOOLER...
OUR TRUE COLOURS
WHAT AKAGI HAD THAT I DIDN'T
AKAGI'S SECRET
I TOOK A GOOD LOOK AT MYSELF
AND AT THAT MOMENT
BECAUSE ...
FROM TONIGHT, I WILL NEVER GAMBLE AGAIN
YES...
I WILL NEVER MAKE IT BIG IN GAMBLING
I SAW IT...
...
AKAGI'S STRENGTH, AND MY WEAKNESS ...

IN MY ENTIRE LIFE...
I WILL NEVER HAVE THOSE EYES
I'D NEVER SEE SUCH A FACE AGAIN...
THAT NIGHT

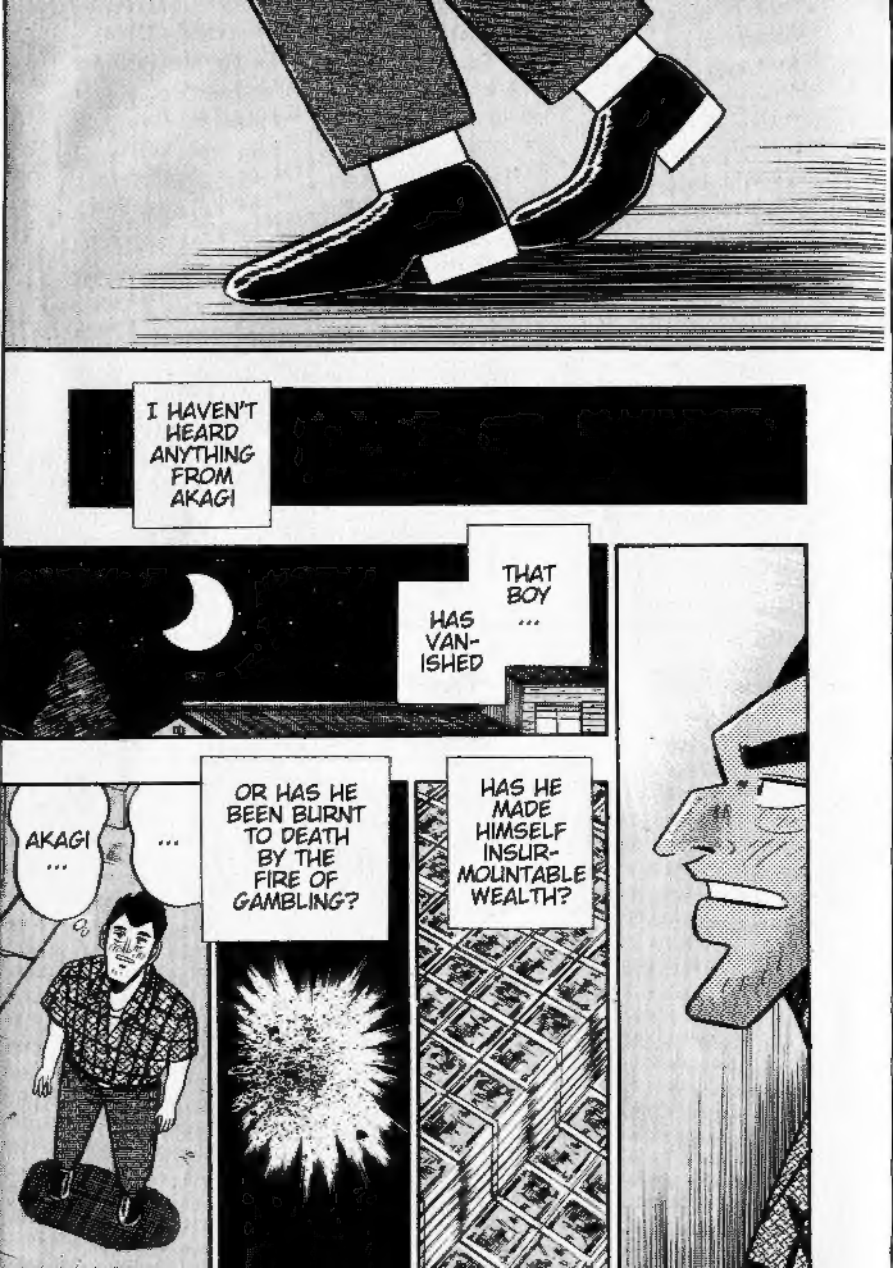

FIVE YEARS LATER
陣
鳥やす

YOU SAID YOU SAW HIS TRUE COLOURS BUT YOU DIDN'T SAY WHAT IT IS...
THAT SUPER STRONG KID, AKAGI
AH...
SO, WHAT IS IT?
HM?
...

INDIFF-ERENCE?
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT'S "INDI-FFERENCE" ...
I HATE TO TRIVI-ALISE IT, BUT...
I'LL TRY TO PUT IT IN WORDS...
...
INDIFF-ERENCE, HUH...
AKAGI IS STRONG BECAUSE HE DOESN'T CARE
YEAH...
IT ISN'T THAT SIMPLE...
FUFU ...
WHATEVER THE REASON, ONLY THOSE WHO WISH TO WIN WILL BE STRONG
...BUT GAMBLING IS A FIGHT FOR MONEY

...I SAW IT IN THE CRITICAL MOMENT...
IN FACT, THE HARDER YOU WISH THE WORSE IT BECOMES
...
NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOUR WISHES ARE YOUR SITUATION WON'T CHANGE
BE IT MAHJONG OR OTHER TYPES OF GAMBLING
WHAT HE LET GO OF
THAT AKAGI KID
WAS THE DESIRE TO LIVE
THAT YOU GIVE UP ON YOUR HOPES
IN GAMBLING, IT IS ESSENTIAL
I CAN'T DO THAT...
TO NOT THINK ABOUT WINNING...
SUCH A THING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME
...

IT'S BEEN 5 YEARS
I QUIT
YASUOKA-SAN GAMBLES NOW AND THEN
BUT I NEVER GAMBLE
SOMETIMES I PLAY FOR FUN


I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM AKAGI
THAT BOY ...
HAS VAN-ISHED
HAS HE MADE HIMSELF INSUR-MOUNTABLE WEALTH?
OR HAS HE BEEN BURNT TO DEATH BY THE FIRE OF GAMBLING?
AKAGI ...
...

飯田酒店
アカギヨ売

近代麻雀コミックス
アカギ③
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